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Poverty, not politics, RP's main problem—Rosales

By Christian V. Esguerra

Totally false, says whistle-blower's ex-boss

By Sony Lira and Christine O. Avendaño

Malacañang says charges incredible, implausible

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip Tubeza

Witness links GMA, poll fraud, 'jueteng'

MEDIA FACES: President Macapagal-Arroyo, during the launching of the National Plan on Infant and Young Child Feeding, and Michaelangelo Zuce (right), a former Malacañang employee, who claims to have witnessed payoffs to election officials at the President's house in Quezon City.

Confirms meet with Comelec officials

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Ex-office mates remember comic absentee

By Cecil Cabacungan Jr. and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

No coup risk, says US diplomat

By Veh Contreras

OUTGOING US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli ponders over a journalist's query at a press conference in Manila.

Solon stalks impeachment rules OKd

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

Graft-buster leads winners

A2
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2005
Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. Temperature in Metro Manila is expected to range from 26 to 33 degrees Celsius.

'Slaughterhouse politics' in RP

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EXPECT FIVE months of "slaughterhouse politics," Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said political enemies of President Macapagal-Arroyo would use all the tricks in the book to oust her before the New Year.

This, she said, was due to the prediction of Stone Streams & Co., a US investment bank, that Ms Arroyo had a good chance of becoming the worst up to 2010, despite mounting calls for her resignation and the filing of an impeachment case against her.

The American bank put an 80 to 100 percent, Mr Arroyo's chances of surviving her worst political crisis today and an even higher 95 to 75 percent, if she survives until January next year.

"I agree, and I warn that in the next five months, President Arroyo's political enemies will try every trick in the book to unseat her before New Year," Santiago said.

"They will attack with fake polls, telephone banks, e-mails, anonymous letters, sensational filing of unwinnable lame accusations, phony front groups, radio-TV talk show call-in etc., to destroy her," she said.

DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO

From now up to December, according to the senator, the worst "slaughterhouse politics."

"President Arroyo's enemies are operating before today, that is why they are not named by name. But Philippine history knows who they are," she said.

Santiago already questioned the claims of Richard Stegelbauer who said that officials of the Commission on Elections were bribed with huge campaign war chest by the 2004 election for Mr Arroyo.

She also wanted to investigate the joint Senate inquiry on jueteng after one last hearing to listen to the remaining witnesses of Luis Lorenzo Ayo Malalad Jose Cruz.

Santiago also confirmed that she was interested in the Senate presidency. She said it was considerable for first Franklin Drilon to step down Senate president.

"It is premature for an opposition senator to remain as Senate president when the Senate majority is composed of administration senators. This kind of politics will republic does not compose because administrative bills would be log jammed," she said.

Santiago said administration senators would not leave Drilon free to strike a voting alliance with the opposition because the majority would become the new majority and the current majority senators would lose their committee chairmanships.

She said Drilon would subsequently be replaced because the status quo would spell trouble for the administration senators.

"My time and last word on the subject is that if it is offered, I shall accept. Otherwise, I am not campaigning for it since I am a renowned senator in the sense that I do not belong to any party or bloc. At last, I would be a compromise candidate," Santiago said.

Drilon last rejected the reconciliation effort of the Presidents, saying he and the Liberal Party's withdrawal of support was not personal.

He said the LP's call for Ms Arroyo's resignation was due to her failure to implement necessary reforms rather than because she had lost to regain public confidence.

"The ability to govern has been impaired by allegations of graft filed and the jueteng corruption scandals," Drilon said.

He made the statement after Ms Arroyo attended her hand of reconciliation with her political foes attended called for her resignation.

The 122 chaired by Drilon, announced its stand last May 8 when it voted 10 to 9 to declare the President's Cabinet resigned and asked her to step down.

Go on leave, opposition tells GMA

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PRESIDENT should go on leave.

Opposition lawmakers yesterday said that President Macapagal-Arroyo should take a leave of absence to influence the investigation on the electoral fraud charges against her by filing a leave of absence.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello said that Mrs Arroyo should take a leave of absence and have her constitutionally mandated successor, Vice President Noli de Castro, take over.

"Since Saturday, the President has been saying that she would no longer comment on the (Garcillano) tapes upon the advice of her lawyers. In the same vein, we would like to request the President to file a leave of absence so that the lawyers and lessen interference on the tapes and the pending scandal would not be affected," Bello said in a press conference.

The President, if she remains in office, has influences and may affect the investigation," he added.

Pilots asked who would take over the presidency, Escudero said the Constitution should be followed.

"It's not for us to give suggestions ... The answer to who should replace President Arroyo if she resigns or is impeached is already in the Constitution and we don't need to change that. There are the ones trying to change the Charter. Not us," Escudero said.

He said that Ms Arroyo herself had admitted that she considers herself as accused in the impeachment case against her. He said she might not be able to conduct her work since she would be busy with her defense.

"It is sad that the President, who is obligated to explain to us the much about what happened, would just remain silent on the advice of her lawyers. This only gives credence to doubts that maybe the accusations against Mr Arroyo are true," Escudero said.

"If she did nothing wrong, then she should answer directly that it was not her voice on the tape and that no such meeting took place in her house in La Vista. Why is it that she cannot say even that? She could prove her claims when the time comes," he said.

"Both the question and answer are simple. Are those accusations true? If their defense is that there's not true, why can't she say that now?" he added.

Mr Arroyo must still face hearings on self-serious charges of "jueteng" payoffs and electoral fraud suffered against him.

"There is no law, civil or criminal, that requires the President's husband to go abroad when charged with serious offenses by her political enemies," Santiago said.

"He is happily married Christian, I want to see the husband stay with the wife. The Bible says that what God has put together, no man should put asunder. They are not divorced, separated, so why should they be apart?" Santiago said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon described Solomon "Sol" Santiago as a presidential adviser for reconciliation.

She also rejected the position of the Oath 10, the group of lady Liberal Party leaders, Santiago said last month, that the main premise of Mike Arroyo might contaminate the presidency with scandal.

She said this argument was unacceptable.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo said his husband Mike Arroyo might go back to the United States to visit him but will respond radio.

Mr Arroyo, however, he would return to the US) but that is (something) he has and the President to talk about it. It is and for me to suggest anything," the congressman said yesterday in Bacolod.

"If it were up to me, I don't think politicians should separate a family but it is their life and it is up to them to decide," he added. With Carlo B. Gomez, PDI Pinoy Bureau

Let the gentleman stay, says senator

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

LET THE gentleman stay.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday said there was no reason for the President's controversial husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, to step down from his chairmanship and his family.

"I don't see the logic of forced conjugal separation," Santiago said arguing for Mike Arroyo, who has returned to the country to attend the burial of a half sister.

Mr Arroyo now still has his hand on self-serious charges of "jueteng" payoffs and electoral fraud suffered against him.

"There is no law, civil or criminal, that requires the President's husband to go abroad when charged with serious offenses by her political enemies," Santiago said.

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Is Raul playing the fool to take heat off Gloria?

By Blanche S. Rivera

IS JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez acting as a willing foil to Task force President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Even militant groups are beginning to wonder if Mr Gonzalez is not the one – and opposite – to unseat personalities and institutions that have either criticized President Arroyo or called on her to resign.

"We have come to suspect that the new task of Gonzalez is to be a deliberate distraction so as to have every concentration on him and give the President a respite from criticism," the Kilusang Mayhdelokal ng Pilipinas said in a statement.

The farmers' group said it would not be surprised by what it saw as a trap laid by the administration.

But it nonetheless called against Gonzalez, who is stoutly defending Ms Arroyo at every turn, his emerged as a prime likely character in the Arroyo government, arousing ire some and amusing to others.

The KMP accused Gonzalez to think that before he himself one as critics of the President.

Gonzalez is now a target in the University of the Philippines, which he said was a "haven for people who seek the downfall of the government."

Gonzalez had sought the review of the UP Charter after UP students joined protest actions against the President. He said UP should teach students to be loyal instead of inciting them to seditious activities against government.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said the country's premier state university should not become Gonzalez, an alternate, persons too gotta and a "nothing individuals."

"To should be barred from entering any and all UP campuses. UP does not need such a man to walk in premises," Ramos said.

Kamikaze says comparison to suicide bombers 'an insult'

KANOYA, Japan – Sixty years after their corps was defeated, the veteran of Japan's once-dreaded kamikaze squads understands the wonder that would lead men to kill themselves on the London transport system solely to take many lives.

But while they also possessed a religious zeal in taking on the West, the former banzaikan find a offensive to equate their military missions with suicide bombings against civilians by modern-day Islamic militants.

Straight things barely lived to tell his tale. He was set, in his another of the thousands of kamikaze pilots trained in the escalating war. On drops, but before his turn could come Emperor Hirohito announced surrender on Aug. 15, 1945.

"I feel involved to hear our mission described as the same as Islamic suicide bombings," said the 81-year-old veteran.

"We did that in wartime battle, mainly against warriors, and what they are doing are indiscriminate attacks aimed at killing innocent people," he said, referring to the suicide-bombing campaign of Islamic militants.

But mentally speaking, kamikaze missions could be similar to suicide bombings, he acknowledged.

"I don't think I cared about my life. We thought we wanted to lead a blow by crashing into the enemy's ships in order to save our nation," he said.

Kamikaze operations were hastily watched and ordered to lose their lives in a frantic act," he said of suicide bombers.

But he concluded: "On the other hand, some people may argue that the Japanese navy and army also acted emotionally, ignoring life."

SATO: He sees Iraq as right to kill Americans people, especially children.

THIS undated file picture from World War II shows young pilots from the Japanese Royal Navy drinking cups of water before their kamikaze suicide attack mission.

Kamikaze, which translates as "divine wind," is the word used in the West to describe the suicide bomb Nor II pilots but in Japan they were known simply as the "soldiers" or "special attack unit."

Like many Islamic suicide bombers today, kamikaze pilots were often educated but politically naive young men and in the time were treated as heroes. They were ritually honored before their sacrifices which would make them pure news.

But in a possible sign of how the Islamic world could regard suicide bombers were the pioneers to end, the kamikaze today have a mixed legacy in Japan.

While some nationalists revere them, many Japanese in their late Japan, largely the former has chosen to forget them. After the war, surviving kamikaze pilots were often shunned, ignoring

Most of them lead quiet lives without speaking to public of their past, and their experiences is little taught in schools.

Shigenobu Yamamoto, who engaged in air combat in the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Taiwan and Japan, is one of a handful of former kamikaze now trying to unveil the story.

Unlike in most of rapes, memories of the kamikaze remain vivid in the Kanoya Air Base this room in this southeastern Japanese city which displays the pilots' portraits, farewell notes and a Zero fighter used in the missions that moved to me in US horror.

"For those who carried out the attacks in London or Iraq, there must be their cause, and it is exacting to compare, as a different or pressure," said Hamamura, a former navy pilot of the Kamikaze Special Attack Force.

"But no one has a right to kill innocent people, especially children," said the 81-year-old veteran, whose lethal mission ended when his Zero fighter was damaged in a dog-fight just before the end of World War II.

"Terrorist attacks will never bring any happiness to terrorist groups in the end," Hamamura warned in his room.

The kamikaze are often cited as an example of suicide attacks not being solely the domain of Muslim militants, who have unleashed a series of deadly attacks in the Sept. 11, 2001 hijackings in the United States and the July 7 subway and bus bombings in London.

The most prolific single group of suicide bombers in by the pro-democracy Tamil Tigers, who have seen 200 "Black Tigers" since 1987 in their campaign for a separate state in Sri Lanka.

"Some people in other countries say suicide is the same as the suicide bombings, but the two are totally different," Yamamoto said firmly.

"The mission ended as soon as the war ended, but there is no end to terrorism," he said.

"Said non-military asset any more or at sea. We just wanted to protect our land, this mountains and beautiful views" from US attack, he said.

The suicide-diving squad was a last-ditch effort to stem Japan's war effort. In October 1944, with the tide of war turning against Tokyo and the imperial navy's air force badly outnumbered in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines, Japan shocked to cure in planes into warships.

By the end of the war, nearly 4,000 pilots would kill themselves flying in small fighter planes onto US ships. While they stroked fear in the hearts of many US troops, most kamikaze were shot down before they could reach their targets.

Chisuke Inoue, 78, a former navy flight sergeant for the Kanoya, said the Japanese missions and modern suicide bombings "are different stories because our target was those who had weapons."

Sato, however, said specially developed rocket-bombers, the neighbor mission of the kamikaze here, were "abnormal."

In the historic code-named "Cherry Blossom," another aircraft would release planes with 600 kilograms of explosives, manned by one pilot drawn into the ships.

The six-meter airmobs, powered by a rocket moving only 17 seconds, were nicknamed "suicide bombers" by the Allies as the pilots' deaths were guaranteed and they rarely hit their targets.

Despite the perceived glory at the time, historians in retrospect question whether all bombers were as enthusiastic in die.

"Fundamentally speaking, I can say many suicide bombings should be seen as a different form of attacks from kamikaze missions," said Mamoru Sonoda, an expert of Japan's war history who has written about the kamikaze.

"In the case of kamikaze, they were not attacking based on religious motives, which means the ultimate decisions on their actions is in their hands," Umeda said.

"But kamikaze pilots did it for the sake of the (military) order," he said. "Boarding their forward missions and returning to survive, I can say many of the pilots did not want to do it and questioned the meaning of the attacks." AFP

ROSES FOR A BESIEGED PRESIDENT
President Macapagal-Arroyo hugs a child, one of two children who presented her with red roses at Malacañang's Rizal Hall Monday. The occasion marked the launching of the National Plan on Infant and Young Child Feeding which coincided with the celebration of the World Breastfeeding Week, from Aug. 1 to Aug. 7.

Peace talks with Reds off

Gov't cites NDF 'unilateral withdrawal'

By Dolly T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

COMMUNIST guerrilla force undoubtedly backed out of peace talks with the Philippine government, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief negotiator said yesterday.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) declined last month there was no sense in pursuing negotiations with Ms Arroyo, whom it described as a "lame duck" since she faces an impeachment complaint in Congress for alleged vote-rigging.

"We regret the NDF's unilateral withdrawal from the talks," government negotiator Rómeo Capistrano said in a statement, referring to the CPP's Netherlands-based political wing, the National Democratic Front.

He said the rebel group "stands to lose much more by closing the door to the peace talks," citing interim agreements on human rights and immunity guarantees for rebel negotiators.

"Their members and leaders will also lose the safety and immunity guarantees they currently enjoy," Capistrano added.

In Lanao City, Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal assailed Capistrano for allegedly sowing malicious intrigues by saying that the NDF had closed its doors to peace.

"Apparently, Capistrano could not understand that what the NDF did was to indefinitely postpone the peace negotiations with the Arroyo administration. It is still willing to pursue the fair conclusion of the peace negotiations but with the next regime since GMA is near extinguishing," Rosal said in an interview yesterday.

He asked Capistrano to refer to the statement of NDF chief peace negotiator Luis Jalandoni dated July 23 for further enlightenment.

In his statement, Jalandoni declared that the "NDFP has not issued the notice of termination to end peace negotiations."

That even while the formal talks were postponed, Jalandoni claimed that peace negotiations between the government and the NDF were still ongoing.

He added that all signed agreements—The Hague Joint Declaration (1992), the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), the Oslo Joint Statement of Feb. 14, 2004, and the Second Oslo Joint Statement of April 2, 2004,—were still binding and effective.

He explained that the termination of peace negotiations would become effective 30 days from the date the NDF received the notice of termination from the government.

"Within those 30 days, the NDFP personnel would continue to enjoy safety and immunity guarantees and are allowed to secure their physical safety. Moreover, the guerrillas, consultants, staffers and other persons duly authorized to participate in the peace negotiations are never held liable for any act of participation in the peace negotiations," Jalandoni said.

But he stressed that if the Arroyo administration would want to reinitiate the peace negotiations, "there is nothing we can do to expose and oppose the ludicrous and cynical character of the regime." AFP

Erap plans to personally press bail bid

By Nestor P. Flores

FORMER President Joseph Estrada will personally ask the Sandiganbayan Special Division to grant his petition for bail in the plunder case filed against him by the government.

Defense lawyer Rene Saguisag yesterday said they would present the 68-year-old Estrada on the witness stand next month to justify his request for bail.

Although they welcome the deposed president's testimony, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said they would oppose Estrada's bail bid.

Villa-Ignacio said Estrada, whom he described as a sick man, should be retained instead in the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he would be accessible to his lawyers and would be just minutes away from the Sandiganbayan.

Villa-Ignacio also asked Estrada's lawyers to stop presenting reporters as witnesses since their statements were irrelevant to the plunder charges faced by the former president before the anti-graft court.

Saguisag stressed, however, that Estrada's personal appearance would not have any bearing on his indictment. If the court granted him bail, this would not be construed as a conviction; if bail was denied, this would not be interpreted as an acquittal, he explained.

Ana Hontiveros, another member of Estrada's defense team, said there was no danger of the former president jumping bail or going abroad. The bail bond has been secured since the past. He said the posting of bail would give Estrada every opportunity to defend himself from criminal charges that are punishable by death.

"This is a life and death struggle for our client. He should be given every opportunity to defend himself," Hontiveros said.

Justice Teresita de Castro, presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan Special Division, gave Villa-Ignacio seven days to respond to Estrada's petition for bail and five days for the defense lawyers to submit their counter-reply.

Estrada, who is detained in his sprawling 1-unit house in Tanay, Rizal, has been in detention since 2001 even as his accused and co-No. 2 Jinggoy Estrada has already been granted bail.

Muslim group wants ARMM polls postponed

A MUSLIM group wants the Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) postponed, claiming that "no credible election" can be held with "President Macapagal-Arroyo still in Malacañang."

"We're hoping that the Supreme Court will hear our pleas for the postponement," said Amirah Ali Lidasan, national vice chair of Kaum Bangsamoro party-list group.

The group had earlier asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order against next week's election. Tina G. Santos

E-mail: pi_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph Editor Bernie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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"HAKKAAZIRA, but I told 'We, thanks.'"

British banker asks Rica to marry him

By Mel Velarez

ACTRESS Rica Peralejo received a marriage proposal from a British banker recently while she was in London to promote ABS-CBN's The Singing Cheerleaders.

She was in a bar called Chinawhite one night with Aga Muhlach, Iza Calzado and Agot Isidro (the cast of "08, Please: To sing Cantu Wow!"), Rica filmed: "This guy's friend approached me. The friend said, 'Hi, my friend is really in love with you. Can he talk to you?' So I talked to him. He was a banker and very established."

After talking to the guy for a few minutes, Rica said, she ran out of things to say. "I couldn't handle it. If I were a guy, maybe. Whenever something like that happens, I always ask Agot's opinion."

Agot was in the loo when Rica met her suitor, but the older actress eventually came in the scene and offered to counsel with the guy. "He wanted to know more about me," Rica said, "but I told him, 'How can I talk when this place is so noisy?' So he asked if we could go to another place which was nearby... and quiet."

The minute they sat down, the guy asked, "Will you marry me?"

"Hahahahaha," Rica said. "I asked him he could meet someone he didn't know anything about. But he said if we got married, then would be the time for me to get to know him and for him to get to know me."

Rica admitted she was flattered. But being a sensible girl, she turned down the proposal.

"Nahi ko. 'I don't know you and I don't really want to get married,' ika nga! I married him, I'd [instantly] become a foreign citizen. But I said no, thanks."

"Then, there was the guy with my mom.

"He came up to me and gave me a card," Rica recounted. "You know me—if someone gives me, I'll say hi. So the guy asked if he could take me out. I just said, 'Ngeee. It's not right. Not now.'"

Marvin soon to be dad of twins

MARVIN Agustin enjoys acting, but is not fond about the threatening trivia dito raw.

I CONFESS! Marvin Agustin admit naman that he was moving to GMA-7. Di ko na siya ng laugh "Wala!"...I remain loyal to my home studio ABS-CBN even if I have no project with them right now. I have Chained To Heaven as guest in DMA-down like Bubble Gang 10 and, soon, Extra Challenge."

Isn't he tempted to make the big switch since the Kapuso network is now #1? He explained, "I just do my work. I'm not concerned with the ratings game. As an actor, that's too much for me to worry about; it will just take away my focus from the job."

Her sweet she hate of bigger bucks can make him change also. So-diane like, where it's usually a case of "if the grass is right," a loyal talent like Marvin is a prized catch.

"I was saying," he sighed. "Hopefully my next TV show will be a drama series. Yung magagaw ng husto ang aking galing!"

When it comes to dramatic roles, Marvin has a formidable reservoir of such talents. He will surely be a welcome addition to GMA-7, if—of, because they don't have that many dramatic actors.

My little birdie from GMA insists that negotiations are now ongoing for Marvin to become a Kapuso. Maybe he is not yet at liberty to divulge any info as he's home is at the.

But one thing Marvin is proud to announce is the coming of his twins any day now. "Tatlo! Dalo! is due to give birth on Aug 23. I'm so excited to be a daddy!" For sure, the twins will be Marvin's fifth and sixth to keep dubbing, no matter which of the two showers he'll be in!

Show stays behind

AC/DICK ex Cesar Montano wanted to bring his lovely wife Sunshine Cruz with him to the United States for the premier of his Hollywood movie, "The Great Raid," she had to stay behind due to her delicate pregnancy.

"We didn't want to take risks...Bibisitahin na, lalo na kung ano pa mangyari sa baby namin. Hahahahaha! Isang 'sosyo-wa wood' to celebrate sa kanyang birthday (yesterday, Aug. 7)," Dante said.

But as soon as Baby comes back, they will definitely have a belated celebration. "I still haven't decided what to give him, but I guess she'll be his birthday gift to our coming baby," she teased.

They are also preparing for the first birthday and "dedication" of their second baby girl, Samantha. The party, Dante said, would have a Hello Kitty theme.

Since they are such a playful and fun-loving couple, Bailey and Shine still surely both turn into kids again as they celebrate not only their's birthday but also the n'ter-jeer of parenting and marriage. No amount of intrigues can ever take that away from them.

TIDBITS

JAMES Yap had better brace himself! Award from a reliable source that someone from his not-too-distant past is finalizing talks with her lawyers for an undisclosed reason. Will he face another court as he does on the bandstand?

BITTER Ocampo kid. In digital camera while shopping in Hamilton, Cubbitina, during the "Kapamilya Summer Concert." Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! The most memorable moment usually go unphotographed.

OH THE same trip, Jessica Sanchez and Bernadine Bulanon were inseparable, and had a swell time, of course. It was the first US trip for both. I heard they were

JAMES Yap and Kris Aquino in Kris Foundation assembly

DIHRR can't go to US premiere of "Green Raid."

three post-hopping. Contrary to rumors, they are not staying in one hotel (Cebu, Philippines only I in Disneyland), not bedmates.

HEH. Boggsy Salvador's duet-ing with Pinoy is seven weeks pregnant! They already have three adorable kids—Janelle, Jolo and Julius. It's a family tradition, to choose names starting with the Epostein's bread letter J. Maybe they should name their next child "Janice" for self-explanatory reasons, right Mareng Pinoy?

RYAN Agoncillo wants to keep his face, M.Judex

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, August 2, 2005

Powered by Globe Telecom

Channel	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM	12:00AM	12:30AM	1:00AM	1:30AM
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ABC 5		Bayo	Cartoon Network	Ugat	Ang Iibigan Ko	Ang Iibigan Ko	Kaputol ng Isang Awit	Ito Ang Balita	Kaputol ng Isang Awit		Balitang Pinoy		Cool Cats		Cartoon Network	Ang Iibigan Ko		
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 2, 2005
16th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Num 12:1-13
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-2,10-16

Then many Pharisees and teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. And they said to him, "Why don't your disciples follow the traditions of the elders?" In fact, they don't wash their hands before they eat."

Jesus then called the people over to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: what comes into the mouth does not make you unclean, but what comes out of the mouth, this makes you unclean."

After a while the disciples gathered around Jesus and said, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you said?" Jesus answered, "Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted shall be uprooted. Do not pay attention to them! They are blind leading the blind. When a blind person leads another, they are certain to fall into a pit."

Commentary:

Once again Jesus is put on the spot by the Pharisees and teachers of the law on dandelion few points of tradition—washing their hands. And Jesus tells everyone to listen: what enters the mouth doesn't make a person unclean—what comes out of the mouth does. And the disciples are concerned that the Pharisees are offended. And now it is Peter who offered to Jesus to tell them to pay no attention to them—they are blind leading the blind. Jesus proceeds to everyone, including themselves. Do we get upset about the crucifixion of poverty, justice, the truth and forgiveness and no one here, or are we like Jesus' adversaries looking for deeds and issue bits of arrows here that have no bearing on actual life and worship?

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PNP chief admits kidnapping cases up

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

NOW Abbas for ransom (BPO) groups have emerged to take the place of those that have been neutralized, the Philippine National Police admitted yesterday.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao also admitted a resurgence in kidnapping cases in the last couple of months.

"There are now small emerging groups of kidnappers," he said in a news conference at Camp Crame.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had assured about the reduction in kidnapping activities in her July 25 State of the Nation Address.

But anti-kidnapping crusader Dewey Ang-See quickly pointed out that incidents have in fact increased.

"There has been a slight increase in the number of kidnapping incidents in the last two or three months," Lomibao acknowledged yesterday.

"There are the small groups who do not ask for too much ransom," he added.

He said some are remnants of the big kidnapping syndicates that have been weakened by the police.

The PNP claimed that in the last four years, most of the 27 known kidnapping groups have been neutralized.

Lomibao said only eight of these groups have remained.

But he said the PNP needs to revise its order of battle to include the new improved kidnap groups.

Lomibao said the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKT) would hold a workshop in the next two weeks and afterward publish a new list of most wanted kidnap syndicate leaders.

He said the NAKT had met with Ang-See, head of the Citizens' Action Against Crime (CAAC), to coordinate their actions and compare records.

Lomibao recorded 28 asking for more funds from the government to buy new equipment.

LOMIBAO: A slight increase

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He will testify, says Tatad

By Lira B. Saldaveria

Ex-gov preparing deposition on payoffs

By Christian S. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Isabela Gov. Governor Dy Jr. may no longer return to the country to possibly testify on alleged payoffs to former officials of President Macapagal-Arroyo's house in Dasmariñas City before the 2004 polls, but he is instead preparing a deposition about the matter.

"He might use sworn statement to testify," according to a highly placed source in Archbishop Oscar Cruz's Bryanthong Bayan Caliber in hearing. The source is negotiating for Dy's appearance at a Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers racket.

The source said the politician feared that he might be harmed if he came to New York to Manila from San Francisco, California, and testified against the President. Dy is longtime political ally.

Earlier, Dy, who lost in the 2004 gubernatorial race to radio commentator Grace Padaca, was quoted in newspapers as saying that he fled to the United States out of fear of being assassinated by unnamed rebels, who allegedly supported his rival in the elections.

Possibilities

"He's afraid of the possibilities," the source said, adding that Cruz and former Gov. Governor Irene El Sol already have told about the witness' apprehensions.

Dy was said to have told Senate about the supposed meeting between Mr. Arroyo and the Dy family intended on illegitimate officials while they were playing golf.

Asked about Dy's purported decision to stay in the United States in the meantime, Cruz pretender said he can't be "directly understand such either" Dy did not elaborate.

The source said the planned deposition would contain Dy's accounts of the alleged meeting between the President and a former Comelec officials, supposedly including missing former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, at his house in La Vista, Quezon City, shortly before the elections.

Lilia Pineda, the President's "fixer," and wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, allegedly given each of the officials P2 million each purportedly to help ensure Ms. Arroyo's poll victory.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who is serving as spokesman for Cruz's jueteng witnesses, are still in the United States to seek an affidavit from Dy. The document is among the requirements set by the bishops for Cruz's group to support a prospective witness.

Dy defender

But no bishop Cruz said he was no longer keen on getting Dy, explaining that he might be "too hot to handle."

Another gulf buddy of Dy's, Cotabato Rep. Luis "Singy" Antonio, yesterday said he was not perturbed by Cruz's remarks. "Who should be make such statements (like early)? But that's his opinion," he told the business.

Antolin said it was too early to pass judgment on Dy, whom he described as a "principled man" and "could not be bought."

"That I can guarantee. He has his own mind," said the opposition lawmaker.

But Isidro refused to comment on whether the former governor was indeed present during the supposed meeting between Mr. Arroyo and the Comelec officials.

"I can't prompt whatever statement he will make. That's confidential," said the lawmaker, who admitted talking with Dy of almost "every day" since he left him in the United States last month.

"We had a lot of conversations which were made in utmost confidentiality. But if invited by the Senate or the House, he will come. He will come," he said.

Formal invitation

Antolin stressed that his friend was willing to return to the country once summoned to appear in any congressional inquiries. "But he said that he will not volunteer. He's appear before (the Senate). There must be a formal invitation," he said.

So far, Cruz has presented five witnesses before senators and is working on a new one who could supposedly link the President to jueteng operations.

Cruz said the new witness had already recorded his testimony on video but had yet to execute an affidavit or meet with him. He refused to give more details.

Malacañang says charges . . .

PREGNANT Macapagal-Arroyo carries Ariana Zoe Tan during the launching in Malacañang of the National Plan on Infant and Young Child Feeding on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week.

From page A1

cal affairs, Gabriel Claudio, told reporters that the Palace was looking into the possibility of taking legal action against Zuce.

Claudio said he was not discounting the possibility that politics was behind the new controversy "given the pattern of these political developments and incidents."

Never-ending witch-hunt

"We deplore this kind of situation, we deplore this kind of environment and it does look like a never-ending witch-hunt and a horrendous effort on the part of certain political elements to drag the President into a thesis that they have already formulated . . . that they want the public to believe," he said.

Claudio also said it was apparent that Zuce campaign was with his allegations because the person who could be in the best position to clarify things, former political adviser Joe Ma. Rufino, was in the hospital in critical condition. (See story on page A10)

Claudio said Rufino, now the executive director of Lakas, was in the hospital ailing from liver cancer. Rufino took in Zuce as part of his staff when he was still the presidential liaison officer.

Claudio said Zuce was a "brave functionary" and thus, it was impossible for him to attend such a meeting with the President in his La Vista house in Quezon City as the latter claimed.

"If any such meeting did occur in the house of the President for the purpose of handing out for the money to officials of Comelec more than a year ago why was it never leaked out in the media?" he asked.

5 more witnesses

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the opposition had five other jueteng whistleblowers who could corroborate Zuce's claim.

Escudero said the opposition was not going to disclose all its witnesses until the impeachment trial of the President in the house. He also said the witnesses feared for their families' safety.

Other party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva said that the opposition would move to have Zuce testify to appear at the resumption of the House Oct. 16 session on the "Hello, Garci" tapes intervention.

Cebu Provincial Election Supervisor Edwin Gultiang urged Zuce to identify the 27 provincial and regional poll officers who allegedly received bribes.

"I assure you that I am not affected by this because I am just doing my job and I am not involved in any anomaly," Gultiang said.

Prove claims

Former Bambanga-Jolo Election Supervisor Norbert U. Sun also dared Zuce to prove his claims.

"I want him to prove it to a proper forum, file a case against us, not through media," Sun told the business in a telephone interview.

"P50,000? Jesus Christ!" was Sun's reaction when told of the amount that Zuce claimed was given to the election officers.

Sun said he would never vanish his name and career for P50,000.

Mission Criminal supervisor Carlito Basilio denied having been invited to the President's La Vista home, along with Lucilito Salvador of Bukidnon and Joseph Estrellon Encinas of Lanao del Norte. Both reports Pete Gil Jr. Quinsayas in Jr. in Manila. Julie S. Alipala, Grace Carmi Alhambra and Marvi of Gumiz, Phil Mendonza Bautista and Nonoy Napallacan, Phil Flaquin Barrera

Poverty, not politics, RP's main problem—Rosales

From page A1

cording to the position.

Quiapo, Governor has gone from bad to worse, he said.

"It disturbs me as a pastor and as a shepherd," he told reporters in a weekend interview. "I was shocked to learn that about 70 percent of the (Filipino) are poor. There has been three-fold number of poor people in the Philippines."

Rosales said poverty should attract greater attention from the government and the public than the political turmoil sparked by allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had cheated in the 2004 elections.

The 72-year-old bishop, who could be the country's next cardinal, earlier said that getting rid of the wounded ridden Arroyo administration was not the cure-all as the country's ongoing problems.

Poverty beyond compare

Instead, he called for a massive cleansing of misguided values, a kind of purge that would eliminate the "culture of mendicancy" and "culture of dependency" in society.

Rosales became more convinced that poverty—not politics—was the main problem when he recently visited a poor community in Bataan, supposedly a bustling city.

"What we know about poverty will not compare to what I saw," he said, recalling the sight of a family reduced to a half-bluemoon tunnel near Mariveles.

"How can we reduce any comparison. Using that map? It was meantime but I thought it was midnight. You'll never see daylight in that tunnel."

Bad gamblers rules in money

The government should reinforce "this kind of poverty, which is more destructive," he said.

Rosales said he simply could not accept that the poor should be left to their own devices while corrupt public officials, gambling operators and drug lords raked in huge amounts of money.

"If the bank of our mind, we know that money is just being wasted and stolen," he said.

Take the case of gambling, legal or illegal, that derives all over the country, the bishop said.

"There is so much gambling in the Philippines," he lamented. "Do you even calculate how much money is lost to 'sabong' which is supposedly legal? Every massive galley has a cockpit...every Sunday the people are there."

'Too much destructiveness'

Rosales commended fellow Archbishop Oscar Cruz's efforts to stamp out "jueteng," saying there was "too much destructiveness in one culture."

Besides jueteng, there were other lucrative forms of gambling, such as "Last Two," "ung-ta," off-track betting, "mahjong," "mahjong" and even the very popular bingo, he said. (See related story in Arroyo the Philippines, Page A15.)

Though gambling seems entrenched in Philippine culture, arch jueteng running the province, Rosales said this should never be an excuse for society to tolerate it, especially at the expense of the poor.

"We have to change the mentality of Filipinos," he said.

Rosales' latest intervention is not the latest of his. Beside ng Pinoy project, a single hundred effort to assist funds for the poor through a common each day donation from parishioners in the archdiocese of Manila.

But more than the money he explained that the project was meant to encourage people to care about the poor and really do something about it.

No coup risk, says US diplomat

From page A1

would not condone any unconstitutional means to resolve the crisis, whether through a coup or people power.

Describing it as a coup, a "people power" revolt or similar ride to end the crisis would be counterproductive because ultimately it would "weaken the resistance and weaken democracy in the Philippines," he said at a forum at the Manila Hotel hosted by the foreign correspondents of the Philippines.

Worst over

Asked to comment on Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's earlier pronouncement that the "worst is over" for Ms. Arroyo, he said: "I'm hopeful that is correct, but now what he meant by it, precisely."

Mussomeli said Bunye would be referring to the extraordinary broad powers Ms. Did not happen. "The people power, no military coup, no martial law, so this seems to be a retreat. We are now the worst part of it," he said.

Mussomeli noted that the AFP's sense of "responsibility" following the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny had been "remarkable."

"This is another one of the great achievements of democratic—that they (AFP) are going to remain neutral," he said. "It's remarkably wonderful and shows Filipinos have come a long way from 1986 (Edsa I) and certainly from 1986 (Edsa I)."

The rare people power uprising ousted Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, with the AFP top brass—or factions of it—switching support from government to opposition.

Mussomeli commended the AFP for "saying they will ensure that the constitutional process is not interfered with."

But he said such a view committed by any official should be prescribed swiftly.

"There seemed to a sweeping under the rug things that are disgust, things that have been done wrongly. There also shouldn't be a delay in justice," he said.

On the impeachment case filed against Ms Arroyo last week, opposition lawmakers accused her of violating the Constitution, suppress, bribery and betrayal of public trust for allegedly using election officials to rig the May 2004 vote.

Bunye is accused of using the military and police to ensure her victory. Other charges include obstruction of justice, unexplained wealth, human rights violations, graft, violation of public funds, approval of flawed contracts and accepting illegal gambling payoffs to fund her campaign.

Ms Arroyo said she was ready to face an impeachment trial.

Not really neutral

Mussomeli said it was important for the United States to remain in the current crisis "not supporting democracy and institution."

"It remains neutral in a pure sense to really disinterest in this issue, because what's important is that the institutions are preserved and the people of the Philippines are protected," he said.

"You can't be if we remain so neutral that we want our hands

Charter change

Moving on to a few days to a time just to Cimbebia, Mussomeli is giving Charter-change proponents a massive smile.

Commenting on the Arroyo administration's proposal to amend the Constitution to pave the way for a federal parliamentary form of government, the US envoy noted that the parliamentary system had "worked very well" in democracies around the world while the presidential setup "tends to be more problematic."

He said, however, that the US government was in no position to declare what governmental system was best for Filipinos.

"What I could say is that the parliamentary system has worked very well in many democracies around the world," Mussomeli said.

He said countries are under each system "tend to have greater stability, maturity."

Mussomeli said any form of government for Filipinos was "fine with us" as long as their "voices are heard."

Culture impedes progress

"There is no real pattern in this. There's always problems with any form of government and you really have in effect people

Formal invitation

Antolin stressed that his friend was willing to return to the country once summoned to appear in any congressional inquiries. "But he said that he will not volunteer. He'll appear before (the Senate). There must be a formal invitation," he said.

So far, Cruz has presented five witnesses before senators and is working on a new one who could supposedly link the President to jueteng operations.

Cruz said the new witness had already recorded his testimony on video but had yet to execute an affidavit or meet with him. He refused to give more details.

Transcribe

'CSI: Miami' season 3 starts tonight

DAVID Caruso

DAVID Caruso explains what he thinks the popular 'Miami spin-off' brings to the "CSI" table.

Both glasses is one of the character marks that the actor has used to shape the "CSI: Miami" leader's personality. Does Horatio Caine wear out his shades, one get the sunglasses and he never lets the suspect see his eyes until he's got the evidence to prove guilt.

Caruso believes little details like this are critically important to set ADA's "CSI: Miami" franchise apart from the other two series.

"The crime scene investigators in all three shows more people on the worst day of their lives and I think Horatio is very aware of that," he says. "He knows how big, ugly and damaged people are, and he's sincerely about the completion of the case and being able to shut the folder. He knows it's not only about the victim, but the victim's family and the aftermath because for them this event now is going to last forever. There is a respect to CSI: Miami that we are treading on a very fragile set of events."

Second best

The cutting-edge, instantly created a different look compared to the two incarnations and New York girl, Caruso says. "You couldn't do a show about Miami and not have whimsy and passion and all of the things that the city is about. Even the light is different from the way it hits the sequences in my California."

Even so, Caruso admits his show will always come second best to the popularity stakes to the original "CSI," which has consistently been on both in spin-offs in 23 ratings. "You can't compete with a show that successful," he says.

Caruso admits he found powered ing to be a lawsuit scientist harder than he thought. Read CSI are on

British banker . . .

Please page 44

and the guys again get me out of the situation."

At 24, Rica is one of the most eligible young women in showbiz. Burning her back on bold roles, which made her one of the most popular actresses today, Rica reinvented herself as a television host in "MAP" and a dramatic actress in various ABS-CBN soaps.

Her break up with longtime boyfriend Bernard Palanca has left her smoothed. Like Bernard, it seems, her London experience is just a memory now.

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Solon sulks; impeachment rules OKd

From page A1

Ginto Matsodera poured out his feelings against the opposition bloom before the House of Representatives adopted the impeachment rules of the 11th Congress that were applied to then President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Bolstering the old rules, the vote of a third of the 236-member chamber could recommend by acted the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial, House Majority Leader Prospero Pichay also said last night.

Without a single objection, the House approved the lists at 6:28 p.m., eliciting applause and cheers from members of both the majority and minority blocs.

Matsodera said the justice committee should recognize the original impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano and not the amended complaint.

Forty-two lawmakers filed an amended impeachment case in the House on July 25, accusing Mrs Arroyo of cheating and bribing her way to victory in last year's elections, benefiting from gambling payoffs, aiding real estate in the United States and complicity in the murder of political dissenters.

They needed to draw of the 79 signatures needed to send the case straight to the Senate for trial.

Without consent

Matsodera, an administration ally who was the first congressman to endorse Lozano's complaint, said that the complaint would not be amended without his consent even if Lozano had "already agreed to such a move."

"They did not even bother to consult me," he said. "I was waiting for them to go first to me but they talked to Lozano as if he's the best person to talk to."

He said his endorsement determined every a resolution of support from Jose Jose Rep. Rodolfo Canora, the lead impeachment prosecutor, according to Matsodera, broke a promise to consult him.

Opposition lawmakers had dismissed Matsodera's endorsement of Lozano's complaint as an administration ploy to prevent another impeachment complaint against the President.

Under the Constitution, no other impeachment complaint could be filed for a year after one had been initiated.

Guide

Matsodera stated that prospect again yesterday, saying the proposed House rules of impeachment did not provide any guide on the complaint that the justice committee would recognize.

He noted that the second draft of the Rules on Procedure on Impeachment Proceedings contained a provision that a version of complaints can be considered into one that can be accepted as basis of the proceedings.

However, the House rules committee opted for the first draft, which did not contain the provision, he said.

"Which of the complaints will be recognized now? that makes which rule? It is my humble submission that even if we are able to adopt rules, they will not provide a provision to address this particularly difficult situation," the party-list representative said.

Besides Lozano's complaint, lawyer Jose Bonifacio Lopez filed an impeachment complaint against Mr Arroyo but Matsodera said Lopez's complaint might be withdrawn.

Matsodera insisted that the proposed rule's amended complaint did not supersede Lozano's initial complaint.

He said Lozano's complaint could not be amended since the House had yet to adopt its new rules of impeachment.

It was not clear whether the rules adopted by the House last night dealt with Matsodera's concerns.

Start of hearings

Nograles said the House adopted the rules of the 11th Congress so the House justice committee could start the hearings.

He said the House would be put in bad light if it adopted the proposed 12th Congress rules that would allow a lot of congressmen to investigate the conduct of his rules.

"That has been our position from the beginning. What is good for Erap should be good for President Arroyo," said a beaming Deputy Speaker Raimundo Nograles after the House rejected

Politics takes its toll on business: Confidence down

By Konrad W. Domingo

OPTIMISM among local business executives has dropped as the political crisis has taken its toll on the economy, according to a poll conducted by the Makati Business Club.

The MBC's Executive Outlook Survey, conducted July 3 to 10, reported that 71 percent of executives polled felt that the economy would likely grow at a lower rate than last year's.

"Business optimism at the beginning of the year has evolved into an onset of pessimism in the second half as the economy has slipped into a prolonged political crisis," the MBC said.

In an MBC survey in January, 88.6 percent of respondents said they believed the economy would grow at the same pace or better than in 2004.

In the latest survey, over 80 percent also felt that inflation would be higher this year than in 2004, up from 73 percent in the last survey.

MBC said the average headline inflation rate rose to 8.3 percent in the first six months from 4.4 percent a year ago, mainly due to the spikeup in world oil prices.

Moreover, about 63 percent of respondents expected the average 91-day Treasury bill rate to rise above last year's 7.34percent.

The sentiment on the interest rate remained the same as in January even if the benchmark rate increased to 6.50 percent. In the first half, 93 percent a year ago.

"The mood, however, may have changed following the test poverty composition of the expanded value-added tax," MBC said.

At least two-thirds of those polled expected the peso to depreciate against the dollar by 5 percent for the rest of the year.

In last month's survey, about 54 percent expected businesses to decrease, while those who believed capacity would exceed last year's earnings slid to 45.6 percent from 63 percent in January.

Likewise, those who believed imports would exceed last year's volume slid to 45 percent from 69 percent in January.

The MBC is among business groups that have urged Malacañang to resign until allegations that the contested election fraud and that members of her family have taken illegal gambling kickbacks.

A total of 91 of MBC's member executives responded to the survey, which used questionnaires sent by fax or e-mail. No margin of error was given. AP/D.P.

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Bishop against 'jueteng,' not GMA

DAVAONT CITY—Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday said his anti-"jueteng" crusade is not directed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It is not. It is against any illegal gambling game under any guise. It is pro-integrity, pro-decency, pro-morality—whoever the president is," Cruz said.

In a press conference, Cruz said he was sorry if his remarks was perceived as "pro-Estrada" sentiment. "I thought it is clear that jueteng has its laxity and attracts unspecified implications."

"I am sorry if there is problems of power, authority and influence sensitive and allege that the antijueteng crusades are double-faces, are antigovernment. That is their problem. The crusade is simply antijueteng," he said.

But Cruz said he was not willing to talk to Mr Arroyo about the issue. "I have no use to say she has become less and less credible and more and more possible are threatening disrespectful her."

The bishop said he turned down a request from a politician for him and PRO Director General Arturo Lomibao to sign a memorandum of agreement to stop jueteng. He signing, Cruz said, would have been tantamount to the President.

"I would like jueteng stopped first before I sign anything. In our culture, the word of honor is apparently lost in meaning. Two serious testimonies like MOAs [memorandum of agreement] are just given much value. We are losing our moral meanings," he said.

He said there was no need for a MOA to stop jueteng. "Even a messenger can stop jueteng in his barangay. Arroyo can stop jueteng in his barangay. Why said the President stop it in the country?"

Since its foundation in 2001, the Iriending Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, which Cruz heads, has been mobilizing the countryside "from the grass roots of jueteng," he said.

Cruz said: "The church has abandoned neither any ideological fidelity nor any political interest." Yolanda Ecleo-Fuentes, INR North-ern Luzon Bureau

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Michaelangelo's tales: Money, Pajeros, Garci cell phone

FOLLOWING is an account provided by former Michaelangelo Antonio Lagumbay of the circumstances surrounding the acquisition by Commission on Elections officials allegedly worked—and were paid—to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2004 election victory:

2003

• FEBRUARY: Michaelangelo "Louie" U. Zuze begins his stint as Presidential Staff Officer 4 at the Office of the Presidential Liaison Officer for Political Affairs headed by Secretary Jose Ma. A. Sison.

2003

• October: Zuze introduces Virgilio Garcillano, an outsider, to Sison.

• Dec. 30: Zuze's office presents Ma Arroyo with a special project signed by Sison on the "Nationwide Computerization of Election Officers Under the Archbishop of Atty. Garcillano." The project is represented in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

• Oct. 14: Sison endorses Garcillano's appointment as a lawyer to Mr Brown, agent at eliminations by Marshall Secretary Ahmad M. Bayen.

• November: Consultation meeting is held in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, attended by 12 Comelec officials, namely PEI and including the political officer of the AMMM and Zuze.

• Dec. 13: Third consultation meeting is held in Subod. The group is met by Zuze and the connexion in Mindanao, including who are the politicians for or against Ms Arroyo.

Before the meeting ends, Garcillano distributes envelopes containing P50,000 each to Comelec officials in attendance, and P15,000 for city election officers, P10,000 for municipal election officers and 5,000 for selected staff of Comelec-Mindanao. According to Garcillano, these are "meeting grants." His message to appreciation of their supervision of support for his candidacy.

2003

• Latter half of 2003: Small planning meeting of RDs and PEIs of Mindanao is held at Grand Boulevard Hotel in Davao City to review strategy.

Garcillano again appeals for support for Ms Arroyo for the 2004 election; Mindanao election officials unanimously agree on modalities that Garcillano be appointed Comelec commissioner.

Undersecretary Antonio Carandang gives assurances that the appointment would soon be released. Zuze is assigned as liaison to the RDs and PEIs when envelopes containing P15,000 each before the session ended.

2004

• January: Another meeting of the RDs and PEIs from Mindanao is held. Garcillano requests Zuze's office to provide for funds for a course of the election officials on Jan. 13 at Grand Boulevard Hotel in Davao Boulevard.

Meeting in January

• Jan. 8: Zuze writes to Sison for the planning session. Zuze makes arrangements with the hotel, and each has an 10-election officials from Mindanao. Two days are alerted that morning but three of Zuze's office rooms are sent in Sison's behalf to distribute envelopes each containing P15,000 for the attendees.

• 15 date in January): 5 p.m.: a meeting is held at the house of friends, and a Land Cruiser, carrying Zuze and Agusan del Norte PEI Francisco Pobe, arrive in Bonbonan (sited in Malaybalay).

On the way to La Vista, Zuze and Pobe stop by Mr Melchor's office where Pobe introduces Zuze for the first time to Gilda Baby Pineda as Garcillano's nephew. Pineda asks Pobe to list all their names. The group stays there for an hour.

The group proceeds to La Vista, with Pineda's car going ahead of the two vehicles. With Pineda are Garcillano and Up.

Ms Arroyo arrives

• 7 p.m.: The group arrives and is led to a lower level where dinner tables have been arranged.

• 9 p.m.: Ms Arroyo arrives. They eat dinner. After dinner, Pineda says the list to introduce the officials one by one to Ms Arroyo. Also present are Garcillano and Up.

Ms Arroyo asks the RDs and PEIs to help her in the 2004 elections. The RDs and PEIs express their support which will be announced in the elections. Some Mindanao election officials express reliance. Pineda says she will take care of the matter.

White envelopes appear

Ms Arroyo bids the group goodbye, saying she has another engagement. As the group is about to leave, Pineda gives Bagani 4 Director Johnny have white envelopes.

They open the envelopes in the vehicles and discover that each contains P50,000.

• Feb. 7: Garcillano is appointed Comelec commissioner, replacing Commissioner Tuazon, Jr.

• Feb. 13-22: Envelopes exist Zuze to call Pineda as Zuze can go to Pineda's house in Cotabato. Zuze is supposed to get the envelopes Pineda is giving Garcillano.

The Hotline

At Pineda's house, her executary hands Zuze a box containing the phone, and asks him to open it to receipt. Zuze asks the secretary why the box is already opened. The secretary says the MMCard is already inside the phone, and that they already have the phone number.

Zuze delivers the phone to Garcillano. The latter tells Zuze the phone will be where Mr Arroyo, the Pineda couple, and other prominent persons will be calling him.

Garcillano refers to the phone as their hotline.

Zuze finalizes the budgetary requirements proposal supported by data from Garcillano and Pobe. It takes him some time to finalize the proposal because of the changes in the amounts, and the addition of regional managers. He also revises the proposal after Garcillano told him there was no funding from Pobe.

The Pajeros

• Feb. 18: Zuze and Atty. Oscar Robredo, Garcillano's friend, meet Pineda at Chili's Restaurant in Greenhills. Garcillano had asked Zuze to tell Pineda that Robredo would receive the vehicles to be sent to Mindanao. The vehicles would be used by Comelec officials involved in the special operations.

• (After a few months): Zuze learns from Garcillano that according to Ms Arroyo, Engineer Chadi Ebadas Dimaporo, not Pinedas, will provide the vehicles.

• (By date): Garcillano asks Zuze to accompany him as he meets Comelec at Shangri-La Makati for breakfast. Comelec arrives late. Garcillano leaves angrily because of a Comelec on their account.

• (By date): While Zuze and company are waiting for the funding to be made available under the budget proposal, four three-door Mitsubishi Pajeros and two ordinary-type Jeeps are delivered to Robredo in Cagayan de Oro City. These had been parked for a few days at the side of the old Comelec building and at the parking lot on Macapagal Boulevard.

Bundles of money

On the day when Garcillano accesses the initial funding for the special operations, he tells Zuze to a predetermined spot on Macapagal Boulevard. There, Garcillano shows him a cabinet full of plastic-wrapped bundles of P1,000 bills. Garcillano says the money totaled P12 million, and adds that the amount needed for the special operations will be around P35 to P37 million. Garcillano instructs him to tell his boss that he will be leaving for Mindanao.

Garcillano gives Zuze P600,000, which is to be disbursed as follows: P300,000 for Zuze's family; P150,000 for his expenses in Mindanao, and P60,000 for Subano. He will be telling Zuze to whom he shall give certain amounts from the funds.

• On dates: Zuze frequently accompanies Garcillano in his meetings. Zuze learns from Garcillano that it was Mrs. Ruby Pineda, wife of Tony Pineda, who was asked by higher ups to help in the confirmation of Garcillano.

Once, Garcillano calls Zuze to request from Subano funds to cover the hotel accommodation of 27 PEIs from Mindanao in Manila. Zuze's office could only cover one day's hotel accommodation.

Zuze is asked by Garcillano to accompany him to a meeting at a house in Greenhills near Chili's and Starbucks, which turns out to be that of Jong and Ruby Pineda. Discussed during the meeting are planned big special operations under Garcillano, who will appoint him, who will be assigned to control certain of operations, the amount of funding to be needed and the roles to be sent to Mindanao for use by Comelec officials.

Zuze is asked what line of cell phones he and Garcillano are using, and is told to use Globe.

The break

2003

• May: Zuze resigns from the Political Coalition Affairs Office, headed by Raymundo T. Suplico.

• Aug. 1: Zuze signs an affidavit where he gave the aforementioned information. Included is his confirmation that the controversies in the "Hello Garci" tape took place. He said Garcillano had told him about the controversies and about calls from the field and the canvassing.

Zuze said he had also been in the area where the controversies occurred. Some of the conversations were reportedly related to him by PEI after the latter's talks with Garcillano.

He also said he had been allotted P50,000 a month for six months in Subano. But then he was disturbed and scared by his and his family's safety. At that time, he said, former General (Retired) Angelo Reyes was looking for him.

Inquirer Aug. 3, 2005 Annex Reyes's name of Michaelangelo Zuze

Compiled by Cyril Bonabesh and Erika Asuncion, PDI Research

MICHAELANGELO "Louie" U. Zuze faces the media with his lawyer, Lingayay Vinzons Chato, to confess that President Arroyo had knowledge of and direct participation in cheating during the 2004 election.

Witness links GMA, poll fraud, 'jueteng'

From page A1

participation in it," said Zuze, who said four for his life-faced him to make the decisions. He characterized as he spoke, an obvious sign of nervousness.

"There are a lot of people spreading black propaganda about me," he added in reference to Garcillano, who he said "supposedly has some sugar or something, who always need money."

He added: "It is easy for them to call their nominees."

Add: GMA broke in four cases: Zuze's sworn statement of Garcillano's remarks before health workers that apparently referred to allegations she ripped last year's vote and charges her family received jueteng, or illegal gambling, payoffs.

Ms Arroyo has confessed here in the water caught in the swamp, but denied any wrongdoing. Her election of the twice scandals may be one of the reasons why she has refused to run for reelection in 2010.

Zuze's disclosures came as Ms Arroyo appeared to be weathering her political storm, with opposition leader opponents to impeach her and imposing the formation of a "truth commission" to investigate the allegations against her and those behind them who she said were conspiring to unseat her.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, former jesuit provincial and known moral conscience, said it was improper for a sitting president to initiate a planning meeting of ROs and PEIs of Mindanao at hotel in Grand Boulevard Hotel in Davao Mr. Ignacio's residence.

Garcillano again appeals for support for Ms Arroyo for the 2004 election; Mindanao election officials unanimously agree on modalities that Garcillano be appointed Comelec commissioner.

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Inquirer Aug. 3, 2005 Annex Reyes's name of Michaelangelo Zuze

Compiled by Cyril Bonabesh and Erika Asuncion, PDI Research

Documents

Statements released by Zuze include:

• A confidential Pinoy memorandum Dec. 31, 2003, citing Garcillano for delivering "about every election" planning for the "computerization" since the 1995 presidential election, and for "extensively carrying and promoting the interest(s) of (the) Lakas-NUCD-UMDP party headed by its Chairman."

• Affidavit dated Aug. 1, 2005 sworn by Zuze to Ms Arroyo, where he summarized Garcillano, saying, "He will be a great asset to you. He has proven (his) record is (an) achiever."

• Note showing Garcillano's appointment has been done since 1992 when she was for senator.

• Appointment as election commissioner in February 2004 was "both a reward for past services and an incentive for him to deliver to her in the forthcoming elections."

• A paper dated Jan. 8, 2003 showing that sometime in late 2002 and on the President's own initiative, Garcillano held a series of Mobilization Meetings. Mobilization with Garcillano.

The meetings were supposedly aimed at securing "a workable game plan for the 2004 elections" and the "full and unqualified support" of Comelec field officers for the administration's presidential bid. With reports from sorry Espinosa, Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora, Christine O. Avendaño and Michelle C. Zurbano

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozon

Bin Laden funded Australian Embassy bombing, report says

SYDNEY—A man accused of involvement in last year's bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta told police that al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden funded the attack with Australian currency, reports said Monday.

A package containing some $10,000 (US$5,300) in cash was delivered by courier to Malaysian tourist Isnilo Andrei Arabani Evans ahead of the attack which killed 11 people, The Australian newspapers said.

The paper said it had gained access to the transcript of an Indonesian police interrogation of a man named Evans, also known as Isnan Dhanuraasno, who is facing terrorism charges in connection with the attack.

"According to Dr. Azahari's explanation to me at the time, the funds came from Osama bin Laden and they were sent by a courier," Evans, a 26-year-old trader from West Java, was quoted as saying.

Azahari and another Malaysian, Noordin Mohammed Top, are among the most wanted men in Asia, accused of leading cells in several terror attacks, including the Bali bombing in 2002 that killed 202 people.

Evans said Australia was attacked because it was an ally of the United States and had sent troops to support the US-led invasion of Iraq.

"The intention to bomb the Australian Embassy was because the Australian government is the American lackey most active in supporting American policies to slaughter Muslims in Iraq," he was quoted as saying.

Australian Attorney General Philip Ruddock said he was not surprised at the news that the Laden had funded the attack, saying there were strong links between al-Qaida and the Jemaah Islamiyah group accused of carrying out the bombing.

But he said that he rejected the suggestion that Australia's involvement in Iraq had made it a target.

The government of Prime Minister John Howard has, however, embarked on a major review of Australia's counterterrorism capabilities in the wake of the London bombings earlier this month.

It is examining tough new anti-terror legislation and security measures including increased video surveillance of public places and more bag searches on public transport. AFP

Osama still commanding attacks, says Saudi envoy

LONDON—Osama bin Laden is still giving direct orders for al-Qaida attacks, Saudi Arabia's envoy ambassador to the United States said on Sunday.

Ongoing Saudi ambassador to Britain Prince Turki al-Faisal said some of the most recent attacks attributed to al-Qaida in the oil-rich kingdom had been directly ordered by the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

"Some of the events (attacks) that occurred in the kingdom over the past 2 1/2 years were under the immediate instructions of the leadership of al-Qaida, particularly this Laden," Turki said on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia has been battling a two-year wave of violence by supporters of Saudi-born Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, who are trying to drive Westerners out of the world's biggest oil exporting state and destabilize the pro-Western ruling family.

Many top militants have been killed or captured and the pace of attacks has slowed, but Western diplomats say the threat remains.

Turki said some al-Qaida groups operated autonomously because they were in places where it was difficult to communicate with al-Qaida's central command.

"In such cases, it is left to those in charge of those various units to decide when, how and where to take their measures," Turki said. Reuters

Saudi King Fahd dies in hospital

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia's King Fahd died on Monday after years of ill health and a turbulent reign that saw the oil-rich kingdom face open Islamic extremism.

His half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, who has been the de facto ruler for a decade, now assumed his executive role.

Medical sources said that King Fahd, aged in his 80s, died in hospital at dawn.

The king had been admitted to King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh in late May for "medical tests" and was said to be suffering from respiratory problems caused by pneumonia.

Believed to have been born in 1920, Fahd took charge in 1982 of a vast kingdom which is the world's largest petroleum exporter and holds a quarter of global oil reserves.

He guided Saudi Arabia through the most turbulent years in its history, which saw the kingdom survive two Gulf Wars only to have to confront the rise of Islamic extremism.

Fahd's reign was also marred by Islamic extremism has claimed the lives of 90 civilians, 42 security personnel and 133 militants, according to official figures.

Saudi's alliance with the United States was sorely tested by the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the US, in which 15 out of the 19 attackers were Saudi.

Designated as heir in late 1982 King Fahd's administration in 1975, Fahd was running the country under the rule of his ailing brother King Khaled from 1975 to 1982.

After the stroke in 1995 rendered him to a wheelchair, the king delegated the day-to-day business of government to Abdullah. AFP

DIANA, the Princess of Wales, walks with the Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in the Al Yamamah Palace during an audience in this November 11, 1986 photo.

Sudan VP, ex-rebel leader Garang dead

KHARTOUM/KAMPALA—Sudan's first vice president and former rebel leader John Garang, who signed a deal this year to end Africa's longest civil war, died in a helicopter crash in southern Sudan, officials said on Monday.

The Sudan presidency said Garang, chief of the insurgency and a core of seven had died.

Members of Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudanese government viewed no grounds for peace.

"We are confident that the peace agreement will proceed as it was planned and there's no need that the future of Sudan will remain a root to our hearts and the hearts of the brothers in the movement (SPLM)," Sudanese president Omar Hassan al-Bashir said in a televised statement.

SPLM deputy leader Salva Kiir Mayardit told a news conference in Nairobi, where members urge to gifted "We will continue his vision for a peaceful Sudan ... We want to assure everyone that the leadership and all cadres of the SPLM/SPLA remain united and strive to faithfully implement the comprehensive peace agreement." Reuters

GARANG

China insists pig-borne disease is under control

BEIJING—The number of people infected by deadly swine flu in China has risen to 181 but health authorities sought on Monday to play down the impact, insisting that they had the outbreak under control.

The death toll stood at 24 as fatalities after a weekend announced cases of streptococcus suis bacteria, or swine flu, had been reported in 102 villages in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the Health Ministry said on its website.

Infections rose by seven on Sunday but no deaths were reported.

An online report by the official Xinhua news agency quoted a health official in Ziyang city, where the outbreak was first reported in June, as saying the rates of new infections and deaths had dropped and that the outbreak was under control.

Chinese reporters say they may no longer visit affected areas and newspapers have been told to use Xinhua reports.

Sichuan, the country's top pork-producing province, has been forced to suspend all exports of chilled and frozen pork from Ziyang and surrounding Neijiang prefecture to Hong Kong, which said on Sunday that another resident had been admitted for disease.

It was the second local case to run months and took to 11 the number of infections reported to city authorities since May 2004. Reuter's

If the main attraction is sex, Asia is the destination

UNDERSCORED by the threat of deadly communicable diseases or the threat of being caught and shamed, thousands of men from Europe and the United States become sex-crazy jet-lagged holiday-makers.

It is an industry said to be worth billions annually.

A 1998 report by the International Labor Organization shows that the equivalent of the gross domestic product of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand is derived from sex tourism.

In Indonesia alone, sex tourism revenues can be as high as $5.1 billion.

Whether it is sex comes from Europe and America bound for Thailand, Costa Rica or eastern Europe, or Singaporeans catching the weekend ferry to Batam and Bintan, the quest for cheap overseas sex knows no bounds.

Many of today's organized sex tours originate from Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, Japan and South Korea. The top Asian sex destinations are Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka.

While prostitution may not be illegal in some of these countries, the rise of HIV/AIDS and child sex workers has seen human rights activists turning alarm.

Many are unaware because the Internet has pushed the industry to a new level. For many men, cyberspace is where they locate the holiday of their dreams, choosing from a host of online operators flooding sex tours leisurely.

Many of the online sex operators appear to be registered in the United States.

A "Mr. Bauer" (not his real name), whose website offers a PO Box address in the United States, offered to answer some questions via e-mail on condition of anonymity. He was the only one to respond.

Mr. Bauer explains that he takes about 80 people on sex tours to Asia every year.

For less than $3,000, most in the United States and Europe can join packages that include airfare, five to 10 nights' stay at "liberal-minded hotels," a guidebook, a local tour guide and "adult nightlife tours."

An online "review" written by someone who had sampled a tour accounted that tour members are escorted each night to various clubs where they can hook up with local girls.

Despite the hard work of the Thai government to change its image as a sex capital, many of Mr. Bauer's tours wing their way to Bangkok and other sex-for-sale hotspots in Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, the Caribbean, South America and eastern Europe.

He insists that the services offered by his company are "above-board" but concedes that the business of sex tourism is "exploitative."

The tours would be illegal only if customers were provided as part of the package, he adds.

Mr. Bauer continues that his companies does not employ prostitutes, only a guide who is paid in US dollars to bring the men to nightclubs.

He justifies his activities by pointing out that Thai women who work in such clubs are happy to "help their families financially and we think it is a pleasure to marry."

In the sex capital of Bangkok, it is estimated that prostitution generates revenues of about $22 billion or $60 billion annually.

In May, Asiaweek, a Hong Kong-based political magazine, dropped its "Guide" map of measuring the extent of sex tourism in Thailand is simply to take a look at the discrepancy in numbers of males and females who visit the Land of Smiles each year.

Of all foreigners, 60 percent are male and 40 percent female. In particular, arrivals from wealthy nations such as the United States, Japan and Britain show a wider gap—there are two males for every female in 2001.

This translates to the sex industry in Asia as well, with more businessmen from wealthy Asian nations such as Taiwan and South Korea headed for the Philippines and Thailand each year. New York Times News Service

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OPINION

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Better way to Cha-cha

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has made a good start toward the amendment of the Constitution by announcing that she would form a consultative constitutional commission that would draft proposed amendments to the Charter. A commission could make a thorough study, then write the proposed amendments that would be considered either by a constitutional convention or Congress meeting as a constituent assembly.

She can follow that up by scheduling the election of delegates to the constitutional convention. She would be well advised to abandon her announced plan of leaving the job of amending the Constitution to Congress meeting as a constituent assembly.

Earlier this year, Ms Arroyo said she was in favor of a constitutional convention, but last month, after experiencing the most serious political crisis of her presidency, she changed her mind and said she was for a constituent assembly. Well, she can change her mind again and go for a constitutional convention, if she wants to promote the national interest.

In the first place, there is no need to speed up the amendment of the Constitution, unless it is going to be a part of a "ground-level" fix for Ms Arroyo. She said in her recent State of the Nation Address: "The mode of Charter change is the exclusive prerogative of Congress. But a constituent assembly may well give our people the quickest reforms."

But why subject the Constitution, the fundamental law of the land, to a fast-track procedure? Proposed amendments to the Constitution should be discussed and debated thoroughly. The constitutional convention (or the constituent assembly, whichever mode is finally chosen) will be amending the fundamental law which will be the guiding light of the nation not only for this generation but for many generations yet to come. Certainly this task should be done not in haste, but with a great deal of deliberation and circumspection.

If we are to proceed slowly and with deliberation in amending the Constitution, then it is best done by a constitutional convention. A constituent assembly made up of the members of Congress would be an assembly motivated largely by self-interest. The legislators, once functioning as members of the constituent assembly, can be expected to promote and protect their personal, familial and parochial interests. They could not even pass a really effective land reform law. They would not even give up their watershed and graft-ridden pork barrel. And now they would be expected to have the best interest of the nation at heart in amending the Constitution?

The Gloriosa for GenCon said that "without the perks and powers of Congress to protect, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention can be expected to be less self-serving, more objective, and thus more credible." Inquirer columnist Joan Mercado has warned that a constituent assembly would be an assembly of self-seekers. He quoted H.L. Mencken, who said that an assembly of self-seekers would be "a place where Jesse Christ and Judas would be equals. But the betting odds would favor Judas."

We all know that many times in the past the national interest was betrayed by Congress. Are we going to see a repeat of those betrayals in the event that the task of amending the Constitution is given to Congress?

A constitutional convention would be less partisan and more independent-minded than a constituent assembly. Its delegates would be elected by the people on the strength of their qualifications and not their celebrity or political or dynastic ties. The election of delegates should see the emergence of new leaders with a new vision and fresh perspectives.

Legislators who oppose the constitutional convention proposal say that it would need the allocation of new money "which we don't have." Estimates of the cost of holding a constitutional convention range from P2.3 billion to P8 billion. If our legislators can find sources of funds for their pork barrel, surely they can find a way to fund a convention. But they should not focus on the cost of holding a constitutional convention. They should not consider the outlay a huge cost but money well spent, an investment for a more progressive and stable future.

It is well that the current political crisis has brought to the fore the need to amend the Constitution. It is a task that has been postponed many times. It's time we gave serious thought to the idea of revising the Charter to make it more responsive to the economic, social and political challenges the nation has. But let the task of amending it be done by a constitutional convention, not by a discredited body like Congress.

Burying a Guinness record holder

VIEWPOINT

Joan L. Mercado

"It'll fill 7 towering steel lockers/ping a Guinness Book of Records holder/ to a former record-creation on a trial balloon that floated."

That thing hinted that the President was again in hunker-down mode/as Malacañang digging began. Ms Arroyo quickly denied the press saying, "All I want is to find the remains of Ethel, Buried 80."

But self-serving tensions surfaced quickly. That's a wrongfully sentenced former cabinet member and Junia Movie Gen Testimonial Master Jr. former President Joseph Estrada said Marcos was a "hero" and he deserves to be interred at Libingan.

Estrada's standards were always less than heroic. True, he were are the point that to some columnist tagged Gen made in "That ignoble feeling." Libingan is not another electoral park. "Never bit before for" that's.

The value is debated as elections abroad. Sen Gregorio and Arlington Cemeteries in the United States to Singapore's Kranji memorial. Commentators with more to have 200 such memorials. Their shorter resources in the politically sensitive memorial places: "Where We Go Home, Tell Them Not Say," the Their To-morrows Are Gone One Today."

Trap buttonholed when people angrily protested his plan to inter Marcos in Libingan, even before he assumed the presidency," despite Cory's vow made in early 1999 volume.

Estrada stomped on a voice shared by people everywhere, that heroes' resting places are hallowed grounds. Stewardship and Supremacy, honesty, fairness that value. Thus, Marcos' burial would desecrate Libingan.

Despite denials, the Marcoses care about for a state funeral. It would honor their dead—and rehabilitate the living still shackled to a sordid past. Hence, they've whispered the campaign's corpse. for over 18 years ago—for one.

Libingan's cavalier value as a President fighting to survive. Will the undertaker swap a home-drama values for political support? That would trump-or-despite held values. Look at the track record.

Rare: On June 5, 1907, the Supreme Court confirmed that "no-war" titles were filed by the Marcos spouses for 1982 to 1986. "Neither did they submit income tax returns from 1982 to 1985. Marcos' tax deficiency totaled P25,000,000,000—not including Penthouse it's P103 million debt. Recommendation appeals were "issued until finality" on Jan. 13, 1997.

Rare: In 1986, The New York Times published a series, written by Seymour Hersh, revealing that US National Archives and US Army researchers discredited Marcos' claims to heroism in World War II, debunking those war medals.

Rare: Follow-up articles by Jeff Gerth and Joe Treaster revealed that the US Army concluded that serious gaps in Marcos and 11 others to the 1st Cavalry Division were "of limited military value."

Rare: Time did the Army recognize that any gold, disappearing itself as Marcos, ever came all at a guerrilla force in the years of Japanese occupation," the Times said. "The immensity of Mr. Marcos' claim that Malacañan served in the secret tunnels was absurd," the reviewing officer said. "Mr. Marcos' claim that Marcos' duties were dismissed with finality in 1948.

Rare: Under the "New Society," the Philippines was "transformed from a country with a remarkable democratic institutions to a system where most chamber methods were used, or as a result of martial-law repressive institutions more numerous." History has historical repeated.

Rare: "Under Marcos, military service was the apex of a pyramid of terror.... 2,327 killed, 35,000 tortured and 70,000 incarcerated," Prof. Alfred McCoy told last January Philippines' interview conference. Instead of an invisible machine the dictatorship, the Marcos regime intimidated by random display of its torture victims—leaving thereby a theater of state terror. "Beneath the surface of a ensured democracy, institutions and politics are escaping civilian control. Massacres, torture, disappearances and killers run generals... The trauma of Marcos' terror remains deeply embedded in society's collective memory and institutional fabric."

Rare: For over a decade, the Gloriosa Book of Records has been the Marcoses' source of pride on "Crime." One edition bracket the rolling story of $683.8 million between the death of the Mona Lisa painting in 1911 and the sale, story of Germany's Reichsbank in 1945. Later, the crime yielded with entries for deposed dictators like Idi Amin and Nicolae Ceausescu.

Rare: Today, like Lorenzo Tañada, Joaquin Roces, Jose Diokno and Benigno Aquino, among others, deserve a Libingan plaque. But neither they nor their families demanded that honor. They were willing to sacrifice the ultimate act of spirit—not honor guards—sometimes a burial ground records. Many deserve honors names as does passing of the spirit. "If also sank impress," Jose Rizal wrote on "Mi Ultimo Adios."

In an open letter to then President Estrada, Diokno, his son, had written: "Please spread sweet-

"When Marcos' time is marred, my younger brother was a fighter pilot. Lt. Salvador Monasterio and others fought in obsolete P-26 planes against modern Japanese Zeroes. He was killed in action.

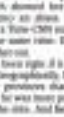
"Making seven had a Swiss bank accounts like did in even one hands. All he has is a quiet two-lined street, named after him, in Villanueva Del Rio and a Libingan grave. Now, you'd hurry same to him, as if brave, commercial values the Guinness Book of Records should be number theft."

(E-mail: joan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Tough

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



BETWEEN Sen Enrile and Standard and Poor's, S&P offers the more accurate view: "Even if the President (GMA) survives to office, the possibility of an executive weakened by lower public support and an obstructive legislature will heighten political uncertainty and further impede the administration's reform efforts."

In fact, the one person who got that right was Enrile himself. He said in 2003: "Since I'm among the principal figures in the discussion on national terror for the last two or three years, my political efforts can only result in never-ending disturbances." What applies to running applies to overmanaging.

The question remains: How do you run a country that doesn't like you? The answer is: You don't. As Marcos found out when the soldiers turned against him and a hostile legislature hung the gates of Malacañang door to refuse him exit to divide.

What impedes reformist? Governance has already ground to a halt. In national terms, GMA has turned the entire state apparatus into a propaganda machine with the single purpose of making her look good. In its the last days of Marcos' rule, Imelda is being done in offices other than to confirm loyalty checks.

Ben Bernie' promises are all wrong. "GMA is tougher politically than the opposition expected.... She is much more popular in the provinces and this support may be rising as a result of a backlash against values to perceived as the arrogance of 'Imperial Manila' in the provinces. The more Manila-based newspapers criticize her and Manila-based politicians call for her resignation, the better the President's support in the provinces is."

The reason that GMA is more popular in the provinces than in the capital region is silly. To believe that has to buy the tenets of the doctrine whose GMA won by a statistical improbability in the 2004 election, that is, that the more credible idea is that GMA is less loathed in the provinces than in Metro Manila, the capital region being the most intolerant and vocal among the regions. But even that isn't true as well, as shown by the recent SWS survey. GMA got a slight improvement in her ratings in a survey in Metro Manila a few weeks ago, which was a source of elation in Malacañang notwithstanding that it merely means a slight smaller bagsakan rating, and got lowered in subsequent surveys, especially the latest, showed her approval ratings plunging two to three. The findings were bolstered by a Pulse CMS survey that came out at almost the same time. Eight out of 10 Filipinos assessed her not.

The point is: It would've been right if it had been talking about Erap. Conceptually, Erap was never popular in the provinces than in Metro Manila, and morally he was more popular among the mass than the elite. And he got thrown out.

The provinces have been complaining about "Imperial Manila" for so long as I can remember (and that is a long time)—Mindanao more than the Visayas, which now even has a group calling for a wholesale Republic. Whenever it (or GMA directly) has had to choose big fights, an issue can be the "Feliks, Cano!" rapes, or hunger FIFA as a issue if the provinces resent "Imperial Manila," why would they embrace GMA? In case has more centralized and concentrated power there likewise than she, and for the same reason, which is to rule indefinitely. Her test for power is well known. That has been the source of her unpopularity from the start. To generalize that the more she is criticized in the Manila press the more she is embraced by the provinces is plain asinine, the product of the false premises above.

What gives the illusion she is supported by the provinces is that many local officials, representatives of various leagues, have been flocking to her side. That is not a sign of the local officials' love for her, that is a sign of the local officials' love for themselves. That was true as well of Marcos and Erap during their last days: the local officials flocked to their side. The reason is simple, and is captured by the idiom, "making her while the sun shines." Beleaguered presidents make lousy milking cows. They usually give the reason if they could. The same local officials have been in the vicinity of the "Feliks, Cano!" rapes. The last has turned the same against GMA from husband of guilt it is to epidemics. Unlike Erap, GMA does not just stand accused of messing up the economy she stands accused of messing up the economy and stealing the election. Her enemy isn't the opposition, it is the entire population.

In fact, how long she will survive—it is only a question of when, not whether—does not depend on what she does but what her opponents, which is pretty much the country, do. The only thing that has kept her in Malacañang is the reluctance of the populace to move to create another GMA. Any weakness in her attack, or what she interprets and the lobbies' does ha, of her opposition to forge a common agenda. That is just a question of time.

Susan Roces said it best when asked what she thought of the view that the President was encouraging and responding to the call for her resignation by it "lifted you sipping, you are sipping up lying."

There is a difference in being tough and having a tough hide.

Rosales: Let's not forget Marcos' crimes

THE REVELATION by a certain Michael Angelo Zate that he was an operative in the La Plata home of President Macapagal-Arroyo right after the 2004 elections raises more questions than it answers. Zate, who was presented to the media under the auspices of the opposition, alleged that the meeting was attended by Comelec officials who allegedly tried to rig the results of the senatorial elections. Zate also claimed that the meeting was attended by Commission on Elections Chairman Benjamin Abalos, mastermind of the Hello Garci scandal, and Atty. Lintang Bedol, a lawyer of Mrs. Arroyo.

But if that meeting was so important and crucial to GMA's victory, why weren't her key political officers, Cabinet members, as well as her cabinet-officio members, present? Why just a mere employee in the office of cabinet political affairs (see further)? In fact, in the last election, Bubby was no longer a major player as he was already battling cancer. (Then he died a month after the election.)

* * *

Palace sources say Zate had disappeared over the last few months, and Undersecretary Ilac Esquerro ordered him to explain his sudden disappearance. Zate showed up and just sent his lawyer of resignation. Did the opposition get to him to secure his vote?

Some Pinoys officials say Zate is a brave patriot who came forward to tell the truth. Others say he disappeared, he had a lot of unpaid debts. Appointee Dr. Jose is the latest in a long string of unsavory characters recruited by the opposition to testify against the GMA administration.

The 13 Comelec opposition officials who ordered the dumps of jamming saboteur Sandra Cam that they had received money from Pinatubo. Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was reportedly so angry that he "almost exploded, angry and outraged" over the accusations and are filing a libel case against Cam and Zate. One of those indicted, Regalado D. Trinidad of Antipolo City, wrote a letter to Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, which is full of hilarious accusations: "cohort socially and economically disadvantaged," "financially challenged," "unbecoming conduct," "unfounded and baseless allegations" that the President personally ordered the distribution of P2 million each to all Comelec regional directors. Isang patunay lang na

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

if he received the amount as alleged, why did GMA lose in the 10 provinces of the region by as much as a million votes? He also showed that 1,347 precincts in Pampanga, Bulacan and Tarlac (geographically was once reported" in Region 3), all of which supports "three unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations."

* * *

Zate also said that the Comelec officials cannot escape asking to substitute from all parties nominees as they come to the Comelec in front as "an often are there in the corridors, the malls and restaurants" and additional entrance concerns to those diverse officials. These concerns, as used topics, range from the candidates' chances in the elections, clarifying certain procedures or issues, accommodating appointments to the commissioners and requests for assignments/appointments of particular officials. Commissioners and/or election officers if they feel the latter are not sympathetic to them. In reality, viewed here, it is possible that these officials "are just trying to maintain their independence" as well as that of the commission.

* * *

Manila Archbishop Jaudenicio Ramirez' observation about how people seem to have forgotten the human rights abuses and corruption of the Marcos dictatorship couldn't have come at a better time. The Manila prelate stressed in a recent talk with reporters that "my greatest fear right now is that we have raised to and declared martial law He was very with so much money that was coke 110-billion of pesos." Said yet, Besides quarried, why is it that no one talks about the crimes of Marcos any longer and people seem to have forgotten them "bigger crimes."

In fact, it might be said that an indication of this propaganda operation is that, according to a survey, people are beginning to think GMA's administration is worse than Marcos'. Rosales said as one factor has been made out what President Aquino has done, as though she were "the only President who's linked to corruption." Stressing that he is "not in favor of anyone," but that he is interested in "the absolute truth," he warned that just as the Church intervened and withdrew support from the Marcos regime when it became evident that it had been frozen into "near helplessness," it might be forced to do the same again if the Church sees support for GMA's time. This is fair warning that GMA has to mobilize her forces more decisively especially her communication group.

* * *

One might add that the corruption of the Arroyo administration has been played down so much, making that administration appear less to angels, as opposition leaders from the media have stopped for right days. He asked them for more supplies and talk. They answered that they couldn't provide any newsworthiness could give us talk."

Many of these ships had no duenos or authorities to turn to. The cash-strapped Coast Guard, which has been tasked to patrol the country's waters, is also hard-pressed to respond to all reports of illegal fishing activities. Only a few months ago, the Coast Guard had to rescue 40 fishermen who were stranded in the middle of the sea after their boat caught fire. Ignacio, citing two big wounds. The problem bleeding was stopped with sugar and brandy. After five hours, we were informed that the bleeding remained and we could proceed to the nearest port. In no matter how many things we tried we couldn't stop the bleeding. Finally at 6, it stopped after we applied quinine with the remains of the pepper. We finally arrived at the nearest seaside port after the injury and the patient died anyway.)

"There were many deaths and the victims were thrown overboard even as deaths occurred. An officer during a good part of the evening. Many times there were high-ranking officials from the provincial government replies to the Philippines or protesters, resulting from prison deaths. There have rarely been coverage without a break.

Mr. Rosales has published a column, a soldier by the name of Gaviota La Barca, boarded in Manila with discovery that was complained by chicken pox. He was unable to make a face with and sometimes since he suddenly took a turn for the worse and was not doing well. As necessity was made of his belongings.

Orosa Ma'Ed, "Las Filipinas de Filipinas," Ano de Mis Sinos 1962.)

* * *

Comments at belinda@pdi.com.ph

Moral disgust

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

personally present during the distribution to Comelec officials of bribes solicited from jueteng lords," has allegedly been going the rounds.

I don't usually agree with the President's political adviser Ceejay Gandia, but I think what he says about Michael Angelo Zate, a relative by senior Malacañang functionary, bears considering. Ceejay Gandia, who is the son of the office of Jose Buñag, a liaison officer for political affairs, have enjoyed such trust that he would be allowed to join the party for people at the President's personal residence in La Vista" Aquino left since UMA was only a few days after officials. Baby in itself, Ina also stood by while they survived millions of pesos in bribes?

It seems particularly bizarre of the President, and cabinet, too, which she certainly is not, Pity would she need to be present at such an occasion, since all? And why hold the party in her family home, which would tie her to the bribery even if she weren't present?

Though the Senate is giving Bagapao Archbishop Oscar Cruz one last shot at preserving witnesses on the jueteng racket, my feeling is that the public has already written off the proceedings by now. Point: what I gather, the public seems to believe there's nothing really new or spectacularly scandalous about the revelations so far, with administration supporters succeeding only in getting through the more sensational allegations.

* * *

TRUE, since amending the Constitution for new content on the proposed shifts in form of government, there's been general lassitude on parliamentary entrenchment, and the adoption of a federal system thus "bigger crimes."

In fact, it might be said that an indication of this propaganda operation is that, according to a survey, people are beginning to think GMA's administration is worse than Marcos'. Rosales said as one factor has been made out what President Aquino has done, as though she were "the only President who's linked to corruption." Stressing that he is "not in favor of anyone," but that he is interested in "the absolute truth," he warned that just as the Church intervened and withdrew support from the Marcos regime when it became evident that it had been frozen into "near helplessness," it might be forced to do the same again if the Church sees support for GMA's time. This is fair warning that GMA has to mobilize her forces more decisively especially her communication group.

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Comments at belinda@pdi.com.ph

Father and son

CHILDREN (one of my many secrets) to have a line as his alibi to cut. I had been hankering for some of their noodles and soups, so I thought it would be a good idea to visit their outlets in Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

I left school at exactly 11 a.m. and got there 15 minutes later. I proceeded to order my usual fare: beef tapa and special siopao. Then two things happened. First, I began to eat. Then, I was overwhelmed.

By a wave of sadness.

It was dumb, really, because I stopped eating and lost my appetite halfway through my meal. Even their famous siopao. But then I had suddenly remembered my father.

There are people who just their stupor, and there are people who don't. Papa used to do this to himself and for me when I was a little brat.

"Papa, bakit mo binubutasan yung siopao?" I would ask.

And he'd answer, "Wait, anak. Hinahalo (naghahalo)."

It's one of those little conversations that remain the barest between a father and his son—short, funny and unimportant. But when you lose your parents in a relatively young age, it's those once-Quirks you remember most of all. Never the big stuff, the big fights, or some battle, revenge-retribution. Your mind (or my mind) at least) harks back to the simple times when you were 12 and your parents were 38 and you had a lot of questions about the world.

Something as mundane as pouring a siopao shouldn't be a cause for unbounding a solid wave of emotions. If you think about it, people shouldn't even be speaking to us all, because we're as dense as the bread and sweet inside, and the fact that you're eating it a place like that... well, if you eat in a place like that and suspect five-star hotel quality and cleanliness, then you're in for wrong place and you might as have somewhere.

But it's because I'm a sentimental fool that my heart finds his son. In his mind's removing the tough, inner layer of the bun to expose the softer, sweeter inner bread layer. He does this for two reasons: one, the outer layer could be dirty; and two, he doesn't want his eating just to break one of his core principles—that of the bun. He doesn't want to break it (I think) because in his son if it's dirty or clean, he'll see the hand because his father does. To the child, they are just a couple guys eating siopao. So doesn't realize that he's improving the manners of his father pouring his siopao and that he's serving his.

In my case, experience, it was just me and my dad, eating in the wealthy joint. Hey, after this he's going to buy me squid of shoes.

All relationships between father and son, regardless of race or ethnicity, have some sort of endless eating undertones. The father may want the son from crisis to crisis, and vice versa. I'm sure that's why the eating metaphor is employed so hardened dorsey to explain this, but I've seen it everywhere—on TV, in other families I know, even in the books I read and the movies I watch. It's real.

Papa and I had exactly the same relationship as those fathers and children you see on TV good eating had to overcome. The lessons that I learned from him were the same time since it's got something to do with his losing key, or holding up with the wrong type of girl, or doing poorly in school.

We might say, "Dude, that's perfectly normal. All kids are like that."

I agree. We're not different from the rest of the world, after all.

But during times like these—with me turning 29 in a couple of months, married for some months, confused as to whether I'm supposed to stay or quit government service and realize the last thing I'm prepared for or for as long—I think my father's lessons are the most valuable. I'm not only talking about the "Don't eat with your mouth open" or "Don't talk with your mouth full" lessons that are long almost their own maturity and wisdom, but in the end, they will always ask themselves, "What would my father do?" No matter how old you are, matter of fact, you'll come running back to your dad, old dad to seek advice, and he'll be there to give you the best advice he can.

Those whose fathers are still alive know and appreciate this. Those whose fathers are no longer of this world are left with just memories and dreams. No matter how stupid you think your father is, my friend, he always knows more about life and how to live than you. That's an indisputable fact.

In the Chinese version, the chopped meat is the meat stuffing into the dumpers because I suddenly realized that I was now without a father, and had no one to turn to "when bad things start happening." Like Marcel Proust and his madeleine-tasting episode that triggered his multi-volume work, I have moments where I remember my dad while eating tapa, but it was only lately that I realized how many things Papa taught me without him actually going out a set of directions to follow. I suddenly remembered all the things I do on auto-pilot, all the problems I've solved thoughtfully or thoughtlessly by copying Papa's no-nonsense habit. Just start brain, don't think, and don't worry. Then you do it, almost unwittingly, because people don't care how you solve it, they want to know when you've solved it. Like peeling onions: to me, really, stripping onion. It's down, it's unionnaire, and it's a habit I picked up from my nickname.

You can't say you've always been friends and were never to ask for father's advice.

But seriously, how many men refuse you know "open up"? I have those two words in their friends when they're down? I am an old-school guy and I think men shouldn't be opening up to anybody but their wives. But I do ask them. As time, it's simply not one but in life—to ask the father from someone or other than our fathers. You're the man, everything in your family depends on your wisdom. If you go around "opening up" to your friends, hoping to win sympathy and help, then you might as well put on a dress and switch around the room and be fortune-teller at a kid's party.

In no time that rambling switch by saying that you should be thankful if your parents are still alive. There is no shame in running back to your father for help, in their need to say, you're the first of his kids, so how can he best help you?

A few times among us where we no longer have the benefit of having the parental touch, all we have left are shadows and dust.

Vicky Cuaresma, JR, works with the Social Security System.

Romance in the high seas

Sense and Sensibility

Kenneth L. Hartzer

(The following article should open up an area of research for Filipinos in Spain interested in the conflict or those in the Indies for Philippine artifacts and antiques may find valuable matter. Those active or those in keeping journals, diaries and land titles, I commend the fact that others might have at this commemorative commemorative the Galleon Trade ended.)

AMONG THE WONDERS in Santander were hunters constructed by clipping magnets that composed a group that had attached themselves in overseas commerce. These were pastimes, tall and thin, with bamboo and bamboo or wooden or such flour. On the ground floors, facing the wharf, were the storehouses and offices of their enterprises. At the back of these houses was a plaza that bore the name of the oldest of these rich men—Plaza Pombo, a street named for Spain's premier.

These merchants possessed some curious and rare collections—sets of paintings, sculptures or tapestries, the terra of a distant ruler, amassed without any order or system. Among these were treasures of "the journeys of their lifetimes, journeys that the captains had brought for their wives or their children and had accumulated in their cabinets and cabins.

On top of a plaza de oro or mahogany cupola covered by mantos de Manila were stuffed of an inflated gold seal, in paperweights, Turkish rubies and Asian arrows, idols from Mindanao and Sulu, ivory tusks, carved by Filipino craftsmen, boxes of shell and lacquer tea pots of black enamel decorated with gold dragons, stuffed crocodiles, arrows and quivers, spurs made from the fish "tapadero" beaded silk, stuffed various mice about native animals, the light of the Spanish empire, mysteriously carved and figured in attire with infinite patience.

The impression one first wasn't looking in the maps of black linen but placed in gold. The whole world, the entire jungle and the remote archipelagos were there represented by its dense characteristics

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Water pollution far more dangerous than we realize

WATER pollution is an overlooked yet grave issue in Metro Manila today. As mentioned by Blanche Rivera's article, "Storm Manila's largest open 'sea' dies?" (PDI, 8/29/10), Laguna de Bay, the country's biggest lake is deteriorating due to water from households.

Aside from the fact that the rapid urbanization around some people is illegally set up their homes near—or, worse, on top of—rivers, the serious themselves have no idea about proper management of water—one of the major causes of water pollution. In addition, according to Water Defense, there are reserves that the 200-kg heaps of garbage deposited in Payatas, the garbage dump in the Manila suburb of Quezon City, are polluting the reservoir behind La Mesa dam, the source of drinking water for the people in Metro Manila.

However, we tend to disregard the situation, not to mention its effects—such as, premature contamination. Is nothing ground for reaction and endorse... into the bodies impacts which are caused by harmful bacteria that can prolong stay built in our bodies and cause contamination. The International environmental group Greenpeace has stated that "La Mesa reservoir now contains toxic substances due to the runoff of flood waters at the Payatas dump site caused by the recent heavy monsoon rains." In addition to this, The Philippine Urban Development and Sanitation has noted that out of 4.28 rivers in the country, 37 are seriously polluted and 11 are considered "biologically dead."

As stated in the "Overview of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Program" (a response from the National Solid Waste Management Commission), "only 75 percent of the 6,200 metric tons of waste generated daily are collected for dump trucks hired by our respective local government units. The remaining 25 percent or about 1,627.5 metric tons of our daily waste end up in canals, water spaces, open streets, market places, rivers and other places."

On the other hand, we have rules for waste management. As mentioned in the "Overview," the 2003 strengthened the local government units' role in the collection of both non-biodegradable and special wastes, at the same time in the barangay units were to segregate and collect biodegradable and reusable wastes.

As we can see, water pollution is of our own making and its consequences could be much worse in the future. So what is our role here? To formulate new rules? We actually have them already; we just lack the initiative to implement them.

Besides us this: if each and every one of us were just a tad more responsible and effective, then pollution would actually be history. Would it not be better if the words and phrases "pollution," "rampant amounts of garbage left overlooked," and "biologically dead zone" —rather than our mental memories and who knows what else— become rarities?

—PAMELA MAE OGGALAPIL
p_mae_v@yahoo.com

Not 'unauthorized' photos

MY sister as assisted for Ar-Boi, Dalisay Magdiptan and some other students of the Adv. 33 inquirers news report titled "Classfree seeks to scrutinize order against drag rallies."

Inasmuch as we have not received a copy of the complaint filed by Claudine Barretto, it is premature for us to make comments on the suit.

However, we only to address the accusation of Barretto that Magdiptan published "unauthorized" photos, we refer to the July 2005 issue of GF magazine, of which Magdiptan is the executive editor, and where the pictures of the wedding ceremony of Antonette daughter appeared.

The photos show Barretto in other ceremony poses for the camera as during the actual ceremony itself. None of the pictures are scandalous or offensive and, more importantly, they show Barretto, through the caption and accompanying article, was not just for in fact positive.

These pictures were given to GF magazine by Ronald Caballo, a young in Subtia Barretto's dedication. They were not, as Barretto's lawyer has indicated on television, stolen.

Magdiptan has been a professional journalist for at least 30 years. In that time, Magdiptan has never used her writing power in response to the call of her profession. Barretto, for her part, has voluntarily subjected publicity for herself as an actress and private endorser, and is not in a position to complain about she, in fact, gave that publicity up.

Aside from being the editor in chief of the and executive editor for GF, Magdiptan is also engaged in board advisory work for Streamtime, the insurance for National and Electoral Reform, and numerous rights organizations with which she has had a working relationship for at least two decades. Clearly, she has neither the time nor the inclination to raise her name by playing a personal attack on anyone, including Barretto.

Thank you for hearing our side.

—ATTY. ROLEN MARIE OGUILLANO, ATTY. CHRISTIAN CHAN CARLOS II CUNANAN
Room 2 Cities Chan Carlos II Cunanan Law
Unit 23 BD-3 West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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Pope Benedict XVI leaves the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica after blessing the crowd.

Compulsory Nazi membership

IN 1933 cabaret titled "The stock will one shrew" (PDI, 7/26/2010), Conrado de Quiros with his usual acerbic eloquence pounced on the conservatism of Joseph Ratzinger, a.k.a. Benedict XVI, former Nazi youth, to give the clergy advice on not interfering in politics.

Surely, as a responsible journalist, De Quiros must have read the history explaining the compulsory Nazi membership of all German youth (Ratzinger was then 14 years old) under Hitler. Nowadays, even the most fanatical anti-Papist no longer uses this outdated argument to smear Pope Benedict XVI. It also comes as a surprise that De Quiros used a strong shoe typical of sophomoric debaters in contrast to the greatness of the late Pope ("who stood out beside and dwindled above the pack") with the escalated inadequacies of the present Pope.

—ANTONIO L. LUNTOK,
8 Tanguile St., Alabang Hills,
Muntinlupa City

Why little progress in the Philippines

RAMON Tulfo's recent column on tax evasion, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Iggy Arroyo is on target but another will happen to Arroyo who has money and influences, and don't what control in the Philippines.

How come BIR boss has an account under a pseudo name, i.e., Juan Pi, dan? What sort of anti-money laundering laws, if any, do you have in this country? In my country, the United Kingdom, members of Parliament (MPs) have various honors and decorations and knighthood, but don't have trivial perks, and any MP whose expenditure is elevated by a standard campaign.

Our MPs are also burdened to serving their constituents. But in the Philippines, it seems no one does the most important goal by many is government service is living their own pockets. Congressmen are few and far between. That's why there is little progress in this country.

—PETER BRANCH,
Adan Mansion,
139 Otis Boca St.,
Legaspi Village,
Makati City

Prophets of doom

THE INQUIRER editorial cartoon published July 5, 2010 says it all. A few dysfunctional personalities are engaged in a push-and-tug-of-war, neglecting altogether the plight of the poor. Some of them seated in frames, thus resisting the move we're now in.

This current situation is not just a crisis of the presidency. It's a crisis of the Filipino values of love of God, love of country and respect for our history. It's a crisis perpetuated by a few who are hungry for or addicted with power. It now have the guard themselves as democrats and champions of the masses; in fact, they are prophets of doom, propagating discord.

"This kind of "prophets" has been around for centuries, way back to the Old Testament era. In the book of Jeremiah, one Lord rebuked those prophets—"woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture."

These "prophets" have a penchant to judge people, but they themselves do not have the moral consistency to do so. In the Book of Matthew, our Lord rebuked many of those prophets—"in the same way, you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness!"

In this time of crisis, let us shun these prophets. Let us follow not the path of confrontation and conflict but that of unity, discussion, and dialogue. In this time of crisis, however, let us review our core Filipino values of love of God, love of country and respect for our ancestors. Let us follow the path of peace, unity and harmony. Let us follow the examples of General Gallaga's byzantine model and Pando na Pinoy's compassion model.

These two commanding programs shine brightly amid our country's present political environment. As the two programs help our poor, they put into practice our Filipino values of trust, respect, fairness and unity. The programs inspire everyone to continue and participate. Under the programs, patriots and beneficiaries practice not only values but also democracy, respect of political, religious and racial affiliations.

By following the inspiring lead of General Gallaga and Pando na Pinoy, we still see dark clouds in much hope for our country. And we will not see any of the specter of the prophets of doom anymore!

—JOEL DONATO II,
jdlevel@gmail.com

Inquirer

Do you think the planned shift from a presidential to a parliamentary-federal form of government will solve the current crisis?

No. I'm not a system-lover a politician wanting to appoint.
—Edith Abiel, 46, Caloocan City

No. PGMA should not divert the attention of the people in the real issues of wiretapping controversy.
—Marky R. Esparcia, 19, Commonwealth

Yes, if people will be disciplined, no more issues, only certain is I have to be passed faster saving time.
—Alberto le Madrid, 63, medical

No. The current crisis has been spawned by corruption and implementers.
—Felix L. Reis, 48, Bicol, Construction Bar

The charter has nothing to do with the budget and pork barrel problem.
—J. quintado, 52, Angeles City

no. the motive is not it system it will not solve if people running it system.
—Elena Pacheco, 51, Quezon City

Unless, among other things, is what we need first our leaders. Because it is no amount a change of form of government can solve it crisis.
—Joel Estavez, 39, Mandaluyong City

It may solve the problem provided that all incumbent politicians for 6 years down 2 beginners are banned from running in next elections.
—dont j. gajol, 49, Angeles

I am of shift based it hungry, educate it filthwide, or external's corruption? No, + problem. Use it, and a concrete solution.
—Soren Ejon Ko, 18, Quezon City

It will solve if pork barrel of members passed is stop buy stop, but it plant know especially it those, what is parliamentary?
—Engr./Mason H. Tuves, Caloocan de Oro City

No, it will work, as long as walang "SARCASM SPIT"...ang mag-ging Pilipino ng komang Filipino.
—Bonnie Mercant Salubre, 20, Mandaluyong City

No, but overcoming it is of least more pain than it gain. The current crisis is a trial & being persecuted/in anti-narcotics mentality/group now.
—Enrique, 22, QC

"NO". To the extent of decentralization of power to regional governments thereby the development of growth to countryside.
—Eng Simon, Mandaluyong, Marikina

it will, I promise by Federal form of govt. we solve current crisis it's confused and change of attitudes of all Filipinos
—Christina Delagdag, Antipolo City

Yes, as long as I politicians don't from interest too, from SALN no more corruption.
—Lito Lay, Quezon City

NO. They're making a coup d'etat. It use form of govt. TO APPLEGATE when in fact they're trying to brought us into dictatorship. NO. It only benefits the rise of dictatorship under the PMP and JPE with greedy, projecting herself as a heroine.
—Ismh Al Fernandez, 17, Manila

merely changing form will cure solve the problem of a city body city
—Imelda cuellar, 20, mid, Quezon

yes. We need it the of making player/fine 34 chairs it house paint...
—Cliff Lancaster, 19, Quezon city

No. It will just divide our nation further as governance is shown more by the development of growth to countryside
—Rio F. Jontuscal, Diplomat, Quezon

No, with or form of govt yan...ang dapat tungkulin gang ati linala, tama na ang pagpapalit makasalit, mamulsa tayo sa kapalpakan ng liderato
—Angie Garcia, 28, Lanuzon City

Let government form the NOW parliament. Let rid of old politicians, sets of pork barrel (corrupt) senate system.
—Elsie martin, 46, Ayala City

don't form overall in Subject. will not solve crisis, what leaders to be in the new govt were it cause of crisis...
—Ava camile, 18, artagay, La Union

Nothing will not solve the problem, parte pa rgyon pulitan mga mahuhusay ng makakasulo ng, bagong mukha ibo naman pa
—Leslie, 31, Kawayanan City

no, it will only it at urge once, a and trigger not affecting specific results...it public doesn't know why will it happen, it we only is us effect. Club meet good.
—Tel Jo, 28, angeles

NO it will INCREASE it pressing it!
—Elena S. Fernando, 55, Sony Bride

NO! IC it Dio cha pueda ng sinungaling kundi gusto niha dito na mamamayan ng pinto cha Filipino. 10 AM - 11 AM to labas ng pasan.
—Ring ma ne 'E' 24, Caloocan city

short term no...salungat meant ang problem but long-run happend more new country it's down. dito lang makikinabang sayalang mo
—josephine esguerra, 36, Aurora city

no! wait we need it not a change of govt but a change in men. its not it form of govt that causes our ills. Its Ulo-ulo head it.
—Cesar Labanog, 27, Quezon City

It will mostly solve 2 new delivery of govt services 10 presidents but not our address it growing question of variety of ability.
—Joseph gonzales, 38, p.s.

no, anything long system ng government ang pinaiiral, hindi ang mga tao ang nasusunod. Dapat pati gobyerno pulitika!
—Arvin Bernardino, 22

No. What we need is to change the entire that composes the present system.
—Nanca hernando, Angeles city

It is not the solution. It will just be another problem. The solution is to remove the cause of the current crisis. ...GMA!
—Agnes Pantino, 60, Manila

I don't think it can solve our current political crisis. The system is not the problem but PGMA.
—Rico L. Esguerra, 26, Lubao, Pampanga

ang mga TUPADS ang dapat may kapalitan ang pasan ng sa...
—jeffrey dumanjug, 32, caloocan

NO! kasi ang kailangan natin ay President na may mga nanunumo at may pagmamahal sa bayan, Pagkatapos, at PAGSUNOD sa nanunumo.
—Fatima Sana, 30, Quezon City

no bec we Filipinos are difficult to govern regardless of form of govt. This is more in the quality of politicians we have.
—alberto c benitez, 39, quezon city

it will need is 1 of look for those of 12 million 40 it to get over 9 WILL MEET recession it it input is not enough...
—Andre st charlemagne, Lapulapu

you will solve our problem to our political system now if politicians have balanced is tackled worked
—Felix Magtoa, 54, Ojosky IT

hindi solusyon ang pagbabago ng porma ng pulitiko kung mismo mahihi pa rin mamumuno ang mga mawalan ng kinalaguing na tao
—Joyce Sandoval, 23, Baguio

change its form people in govt will solve it crisis, not a change in it form of govt. Whatever form of govt we have but some people, its bound 2 fail
—Jun, 33, ex pilot

nope, not with it same corrupt, immoral and unprincipled leaders we have in our system. God GMA first, she's it culprit.
—jerry Magsin, vigan city

Nonsense/bat. Change then's just musical chairs if ilan nanaman ang apektado. Ang mas importante ay pagbago ng mga ugali ng mga tao. Sa ating mga ugali ng pinoy ang pagiging walang disiplina.
—enrique Villanueva, 44, philippine city

It will both short-to-values. Shift, ing to a new system is no use if our leaders would change and to correct themselves.
—Ruben Ruben, 25, Quezon City

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E-mail us at ... Across the NATION ... Text us your feedback ... Assistant Editor Tony Gerapera

'Jueteng' makes return in Isabela

CABATUAN, Isabela—The illegal numbers game jueteng is back in Isabela's major towns and cities, with dry-run operations done on July 31, the inquirer learned.

But collectors have been seen soliciting bets from jueteng bettors, residents said. "Bukas na naman kami magbabayad ng hit ng 3We are also again after Sunday," a collector said.

Senior Supt. Percival Acebu, Isabela police provincial director, said he has ordered police chiefs in Isabela's towns and cities to immediately conduct raids.

He said he would enforce police chiefs who fail to stop jueteng in their areas.

"They will be relieved ... [because] the one at the police of the Philippine National Police will handle," he said.

On hearing the resurgence of jueteng, Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Diocese of Ilagan said he would ask priests in the diocese to openly denounce jueteng.

Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley police director, downplayed reports of full-blast jueteng operations in the region.

"There is a proliferation of [2] areas of the [government-run] lotto. Maybe those [possible jueteng operations] are riding on [the game's popularity] to resume their illegal activities," he said.

The Inquirer learned that bets daily raffles have been held in some towns in the province.

In Angadanan town, for example, the winning combinations were 30-18 and 3-4 in morning and afternoon raffles on Sunday.

The Philippine National Police has claimed that it has put a stop to jueteng nationwide following a directive by Taking the President's husband, but not and brother-in-law in jueteng payoffs.

But several reports point to the continuation of the illegal numbers game which has become a source of payoffs for top police and government officials. *With* Jasmine Ebuna Jr., *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Roundup

Cop held in drug bust

CAMP SIM ... Police ... Supt. ... Bulacan ... drug ... Sim ... last week. Senior Supt. Benjamin Michael Isidro, Bulacan police director, said PO2 Ricardo Vera, 38, and his companions Louie Cauila, 28, and Leonardo Bautista, 30, were arrested after they sold 10 grams of shabu to an agent posing as a buyer. Police said Vera is detained at the regional police's intelligence and investigation unit in Camp Alagar, Pampanga. *Glenda Dapar, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Power firm pays taxes

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan— The Mirant Pantabangan Corp. ... a P1.5 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Nueva Ecija, ... P7.05.5-million tax ... Lingayen ... Mirant ... Pangasinan. Gov. Victor Agbayani said the amount, which represents the real property taxes on the power plant from the second quarter of 2008 to December 2009, ... provincial government. The town of Sual and the power plant's third village of Pangascasan, Agbayani said the money would finance the local government's development projects and their salaries. *Rolando Dante Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

New bishop hailed

NAGA CITY— ... Archdiocese ... hailed the appointment of Rev. Bltsp. Jose Rojas Jr. as the Archbishop of Nueva Caceres. Rojas is the first Filipino bishop appointed by Pope Benedict XVI after his election. He was also elected the 17th Bishop of Masbate and the Secretary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Caceres. ... New bishop ... Father Rojas was born in Cebu City 48 years ago but settled here where he spent his elementary, ... education in the high school of Talisay and his secondary and college education at this town and major seminaries of the Holy Rosary of the Archdiocese of Caceres.

Jun Encarnacion Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bicolnons vs Giorts

LEGAZPI CITY ... Over 5,000 government employees in Bicol joined the call by President Macapagal-Arroyo to stay down. The Pilot Mt Government Employees Bilaga Bicol, with more than 5,000 members, said ... during a press conference Thursday that it wants Ms. Arroyo to resign. Engineer Dominic Bualad of the Department ... Bicol ... of Public Works and Highways ... Bicol and president of Bilaga, said they could not ... government building projects ... if the ... powers ... Bualad ... supporting salaries ... an international team ... that would manage the government ... Ms. Arroyo steps down.

Jet Bolar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 prisoners escape

SORSOGON CITY ... Two ... escaped ... Police ... Rodel ... Bolo, ... posed as policemen ... and ... fired ... to ... during ... escorted ... by ... police ... for a hearing in Gubat ... Ramon Feliz ... on ... Thursday. Police ... said the ... duo, who ... wore ... police camouflage uniform, flagged down ... the ... jeepney ... transporting ... Aurelio Flores, a suspected NPA ... and Alberto Bollardo ... and ... guards ... Ramon ... and ... Cristopher ... along ... the ... highway ... Barangay ... were ... unarmed ... The other ... passengers ... were ... in the ... jeepney. The ... were ... transported ... to ... Bolo ... Police ... said ... the ... escapees ... identified ... themselves ... as ... and ... asked ... the ... passengers ... to ... alight ... as ... they ... were ... verifying ... information ... that ... illegal ... were ... being ... in ... the ... vehicle.

Annaliza Rosario, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Retired judge dies

RETIRED ... Judge ... died ... July 28 ... Manila ... He ... survived ... by ... wife, ... daughters, ... sons-in-law, ... and ... Rites ... were ... held ... Thursday ... Parlor ... and ... Cemetery ... Avenue ... Manila. ... Interment ... will ... be ... Wednesday.

SCENES like this are likely to be repeated on Aug. 8 when voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao cast their ballots to choose the region's governor and other officials. The elections, however, are under a cloud of doubt as the Commission on Elections' capability to conduct clean voting was put in question. *MANILA BULLETIN*

Comelec says Namfrel spreading 'hogwash'

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections yesterday accused the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) of spreading hogwash, even as the quick count group doubted the Comelec's capability of handling double, peaceful and honest elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Elections Commissioner Mehol Sadain said Namfrel has been put in operations by the words contained expert Robert Stevens, whose critical analysis of Namfrel's 2004 tabulations, the election official pointed out, tended to charge the poll-watching group with "cooking."

"If you look at this [critical analysis], you will see the shortfall ... that Namfrel is covering up for its fault at the expense of the Comelec. It's probably their way to [get rid] being weak," said another Comelec official.

Meanwhile, Atty. Rabuk, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said his group still maintained its hands off policy on the regional elections.

"I think it's already a big help to the government on our part to be neutral or non-participant in Philippine political affairs," Sadain said, reacting to a report that the MILF was also asking the government to postpone the ARMM elections.

Sadain said only Congress has the power to enact the Bug-O Law, which is fixed by Sec. BA 9054 or the Expanded Autonomy Law for Muslim Mindanao.

The commissioner said the Comelec was left with no option but to continue with the preparations for elections and if Congress comes up with a new law to defer or postpone the regional elections.

Sadain, he said, views it is the people as an accredited quick count group in 2004 to be providing them, through the Comelec, detailed per province reports on the results of the last national elections.

He said Comelec wanted for Namfrel's application for accreditation as watchdog, but neither has it attended hearings for accreditation, nor has it complied with the Comelec requirement of a per province breakdown of the May 2010 election results. *Mark Meadows and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mayor shuts down radio station for maligning him in programs

MAJAYJAY, CITE, Batangas—Majayjay City Mayor Jose Galanta Jr. ordered the closure of Radio Mindanao Network's station dzRL-FM after he cancelled the broadcast outfit's business permit on Monday.

Galanta said he cancelled the station's business permit because Jonah Digson, dzRL-acting station manager, allegedly refused a city settlement.

Galanta said Digson has been using the station to "admonish by and unlawful manner" by maligning him on air.

In a letter sent to engineer Jaime Ademola, dzRL's area manager, Galanta said owing someone, six of dzRL's men are reprimanded and that they continue to "injure the public morals and welfare, peace and tranquility of the Majayjay residents."

"Instead of having disclosures, they have thrown issues against the duly constituted authorities," Galanta said in his letter to Ademola.

Digson said Galanta got irked with his remarks, ranging from the issues of technical malversation of funds to his alleged coddling of suspected anti-drug vigilantes.

He said relatives of victims of summary executions in Valencia claimed that the suspects in the killings were seen in the City Hall with Galanta.

"What is worse here is that these statements were made by a duly elected public official in Cagayan de Oro where politicians are the ones involved," Digson said.

Galanta said that he cannot find the true motives behind the moves against him by Digson.

Although he has a one-hour block time program at the station, Galanta said he would rather assume the issues were the same programs where views were raised.

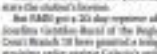
"I did not want to censor the issues using the block-time program, they should have given me the chance in their broadcaster's program. They practice irresponsible broadcasting," he said.

Aside from Digson, Galanta said another panel of irresponsible among dzRL broadcasters in the studio against him by Lolita Omar.

Galanta said he was not planning to reinstate the station's license.

But dzRL got a 20-day reprieve after Judge Josefina Gordon Board of the Regional Trial Court Branch 38 here granted a temporary restraining order against Galanta's order. *Glenn Garrid-Albacin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SHARP FAX MACHINE



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Justice grinds slowly for slain publisher

By Tonette Orejas
PEP Central Luzon Unit

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO... Nearly three months since community publisher Philip Agustin was murdered, the case seeking to pin down an Aurora mayor for the killing is still in its preliminary investigation stage, the inquest learned.

The police, despite a manhunt, have also failed to arrest two of the three suspected gunmen, Felix "Boyet" Blanco and Israel Aday. They were last reported to be hiding in Barangay Inmay at the boundary of Aurora and Quezon, and in San Miguel, Bulacan, according to Agustin's friend, Councilor Ndemino Lapuz of Dingalan, Aurora.

The police identified Dingalan Mayor Jesse Tiazon as the suspected mastermind in Agustin's murder. Tiazon, however, denied having a hand in the publisher's slaying.

Agustin, 54, publisher of the Bantay Times Newsweek and radio was murdered on May 19 this year, joined the list of more than 60 Filipino journalists killed since democracy was restored in 1986.

Lapuz said Tiazon had set up Agustin as a front for his brazen illegal operations of Jueteng that began on May 17.

A lawyer representing the mayor, Lapuz said,

The eighth hearing on the case will be held on Aug. 2.

Three prosecutors the DOJ assigned to the case also did not appear on the July 14 and 20 hearings, Agustin's daughter Rosabelle Cruz said.

Agustin was gunned down in Cruz's house in Dingalan on May 18, a few hours after he arrived carrying copies of his paper's special edition.

The June issue published several stories that exposed alleged irregularities in Tiazon's handling of relief and rehabilitation funds for victims of landslides and flash floods. The mayor had denied the allegations in earlier interviews.

The case against Tiazon relied on confessions of one of the suspects, Reynaldo Mateo, a/k/a Ronnie Mateo, a/k/a Ronnie Mateo, a/k/a Ronnie

11M in Metro have no sewer access

By Blanche S. Rivera

MORE than 11 million residents of Metro Manila—or around 80 percent of the population—do not have access to proper sewerage facilities, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System revealed.

This makes Metro Manila the second worst Asian city in terms of sewer connection, worse off than even the underdeveloped city of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Only between 12 to 15 percent of the population are connected to sewer lines managed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and private concessionaires Manila Water Co.

"The other 85 (percent) of the population discharge their waste water directly to septic tanks that do not get cleaned up or do not undergo treatment for years," said MWSS water quality management officer Marvelous N. Rivera Jr.

These individual septic tanks are not regulated, unlike the sewer line with a central treatment facility that regularly treats waste water, he added.

MWSS director Lullebelle Medoza said waste water needs to be sucked out from the septic tanks and treated every five years so it does not leak to the environment.

Those who have individual septic tanks are connected to the main sewer usually overlook this requirement, she observed.

"People do not treat sewage water in their septic tanks unless the tanks are clogged," Medrozo said.

She said sewer suppliers are mandated to treat waste water for free because this service is included in the sewerage charge, which is incorporated in the water bill.

"The problem is that few people know it. Unless the water suppliers get a request to clean up the septic tanks, they do not do it," Medrozo said.

A 2003 report by the World Bank showed that Metro Manila was next to Jakarta among nine Asian cities in terms of lack of access to pipe-sewerage.

"Household waste water or sewerage is a major source of pollution because treatment facilities are lacking," the report said.

"Access to sewerage in Metro Manila is poor compared with other cities in Asia," the same report added.

Rivera said the government is working to oversee the situation with the passage of the implementing rules and regulations of the Clean Water Act of May.

The new law requires all subdivisions, condominiums, malls, hotels and other public buildings in highly urbanized cities (HUC) to construct their sewerage lines to the existing system by 2010.

Non-HUCs are mandated to employ a septage or combined sewerage-septage system to ensure sanitation.

Pipers suppliers like the MWSI, sewer drainers and water concessionaires are required to coordinate with local governments for the installation of new sewage systems.

Not guilty plea from Ramos slay suspects

By Tarra N. Quismundo

THE THREE suspects in the slaying of former diplomat Alicia Ramos entered a plea of not guilty before the court yesterday despite an earlier admission of involvement in the crime.

Rubenio Lumagui, Joel Abley and Michael Groll were charged with robbery and homicide by the justice department for allegedly conspiring to behead Jill Ramos on April 26.

"We do not want to say anything to the interpreter," said Lumagui, when asked for comment after their arraignment yesterday in the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 147, with Judge Maria Cristina Cornejo presiding.

Though disappointed by the not guilty pleas, the prosecution was confident it would be able to win its case against the suspects.

"We have strong evidence against them. We have scientific evidence and the extra-judicial confessions of the three accused," said senior state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco.

Lumagui, the diplomat's longtime handyman, surrendered to police and city officials two weeks after the slay, after Abley and Groll, who were arrested earlier, identified him as the mastermind in the early morning linedown in the Ramos home at 5332 Boyle Street, Barangay Palanan, Makati City.

Before the media, police, and state prosecutors, Lumagui said he called Abley, Groll, and another suspect, who is still at large, into his room to escape the 5 am. duty morning briefings.

Abley and Groll admitted following Lumagui's orders.

But Lumagui said he planned the killing based on orders of Imee Ramos-Suller, the then diplomat's eldest sister who had been in and out of the penthouse to ward off a maybe hospital.

He added that he said his group will not resort to kill Ramos, "but only to scare her as ordered by Suller."

The justice department, however, claimed Suller of any involvement, and insisted only the trio is liable for the crime.

Ramos died of suffocation, hanging bare gagged and bagged by the knights. Some P1 million worth of valuables were taken from the Ramos house, including two cellular phones, three cameras, knives and Seiko wristwatches, two watches and Seiko wristwatches, two watches and one machine deck, and gifts from foreign embassies.

On May 31, as part of the preliminary investigation, the three suspects reenacted how they executed the Ramos house and beaten and gagged Ramos and her younger sister, Loraita, who also lived in the Palanan house.

Velasco said the younger Ramos, who was the only witness to their house, would be among the witnesses. Lebish reported the crime to police, after she managed to escape.

PUVs with no fare matrix given Aug. 31 deadline

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) yesterday ordered all public utility vehicles that have been allowed to raise their fares to stop their fares and get their fare matrices from the board no later than Aug. 31.

Starting Sept. 11, the LTFRB said it would start issuing after P5.50a that do not have a fare matrix or sticker, are using older matrix.

The order applies to all jeeps, Metro town airconditioned buses, Metro ordinary buses and provincial non-aircon buses that have all received the go-ahead to raise fares. Jeeps and 40-to-aircon buses are allowed raising fares by P1 on July 15.

Metro aircon buses and provincial aircon buses only received their petitions on July 19 and can charge higher fares starting Aug. 3, provided they had paid the P5,000 filing fee, which includes one fare matrix and P40 for franchise verification. Each additional matrix costs P50.

So far, LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said that there were still 20,000 jeepneys, Metro buses and 250 non-aircon Metro buses that have yet to purchase fare and sensor date stamps. There are more than 45,000 jeeps in Metro Manila and about 30,000 buses.

"We have to set a deadline because we continue to receive complaints and reports of heated arguments between drivers and passengers," said Bautista.

Some operators were also complaining, she said, because of a price war being waged by PUVs that have not raised their fares for lack of a matrix.

Bautista said PUVs caught without the fare matrix or franchise photocopy of the document face a P1000 fine for the first offense and P1,000 on the second offense. The LTFRB would also cancel the franchise of the PUV on the third offense, she said.

Those found with false fare matrices face a P5,000 fine for the first offense plus 30-day suspension of franchise.

EASY DOES IT
An observant jay-walked student plays hopping to avoid puddles and potholes each time the rain comes to his Sta. Ana, Manila neighborhood.

Pasay City barangays prepare to battle dengue

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MANY City is preparing quite some against a killer.

With the upsurge in dengue cases in the country, the city has already folded sanitary inspectors three months before the start of the rainy season to perform investigating in every barangay and sanitary brigade carrying mosquitoes, said surveillance health officer Lilibeth Ortega in an interview.

Investigating sessions the conversations of mosquitoes in entire areas, she explained.

The may seem to sun—at least four inches tall and three inches in diameter—that is painted black. These holes are punched on both sides.

The can is submerged in water and placed indoors and outdoors in barangay by sanitary inspectors, Ortega said. Inspectors noted the days before gathering the cans for testing.

Lawmaya results showed to the hoopers revealed that Barangay 182 had some 63 percent conversation of mosquito larvae, while Barangay 137 had seven percent, the lowest.

But Ortega warned residents of Barangay 182 that there was no reason to panic.

She said investigating was not a reminder for residents to maintain cleanliness in their areas.

She reminded the public to get rid of old tires, bottles and other items where the dengue carrying mosquitoes, The Aedes Aegypti, thrived.

"From 10 cord will at least 20 percent density of larvae have to undergo fumigation," Ortega said.

So far, the Pasay City Health office had not registered a single dengue case, she added.

2 suspects in Caloocan slay face murder raps

By Mancy C. Carvajal

MURDER charges have been filed against two suspects who were allegedly involved in the brutal killings of businessman and three members of his household in Caloocan City last week.

Charged with Aurora Espinosa and Janet Arogancy, both 30, were employed by the victim, Andres Villa, owner of Global Rotary Equipment Inc.

The trial is full next Espinosa who was arrested in Alicia, Isabela last Saturday by the Caloocan police operatives from the Police Anti-Robbery Investigation Unit (PARIU) headed by Supt. Marlon Solis. Police have apprehended Arogancy in the Caloocan home after Espinosa pointed to him as one of his companions along with a certain Jaime Fabian.

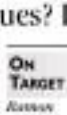
Police said Espinosa was arrested by legal counsel Lamin Amanor when he encountered on page at Isabela's detaining the victim's parents.

Espinosa has told the alleged girlfriend of the victim's father had told him and Arogancy to kill Villa on July 23.

The mastermind, according to Espinosa, was inside her cell car with her driver parked along 4th Avenue, where she asked Arogancy if he had made up his mind about killing Villa.

"He was promised money if we would kill our boss," Espinosa said, adding that the girlfriend was mad as Villa. However, Espinosa denied participating in the killings, claiming he was inside a bathroom when these took place because he was scared.

Wrong values? Look who's talking



ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales is right: Pinoybol Macapagal-Arroyo is being accused of corruption, but does her administration have a monopoly on corruption?

President Ferdinand Marcos' rule was riddled with corruption, so were those of Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Valdez Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

Ms Aquino was supposedly incorruptible. Oh yeah? What about her relatives? Why did she allow them to receive 42% of the government's coconut levy?

Why did she not include her sons Ballonda Lanza in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)?

As for Mr. Ramos, ask him what happened to the modernization of the Armed Forces that was supposed to have been funded by the sale of Fort Bonifacio. Ask him about how much was really spent on the Centennial Exposition inside the Clark Economic Zone.

Estrada? He's no "gossipal" (bosom) to be cried on. Even his cronies cannot be held the face to do all those things he's being accused of.

Besides said the Filipino's wrong values are at the heart of the problem.

The good archbishop hit the nail on the head.

An example of wrong values: when a guy comes from the government and he has not acquired wealth, people think he's stupid.

It would take many generations to correct this. We got the wrong values from... please listen to this, Archbishop Rosales—the Spanish friars who arrived nearly by using the Catholic religion.

The friars taught the Indios to be lazy and uneducated so they would rely on doles from the Church and the State. This would make for easy subjugation of the Indios.

It's a case of what's never first, the chicken or the egg? So, who started corruption in the first place, Archbishop Rosales?

* * *

Wrong values include hypocrisy. Government officials accuse others of corruption, when they're in corrupt themselves, as the saying goes, they're pointing an accusing finger at.

C'mon guys, get real! What's the use of being accused by cheating?

The hypocrites should be reminded of the admonition of the Carpenter who lived more than 2,000 years ago: "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

* * *

By the way, some priests and bishops deny unwavering among their flock.

But they don't see the same in their own.

Many priests and bishops maintain mistresses and have children by these women.

Many priests enjoy the Philippine entertainment and tanning city, Olongapo. But look at the go to Pagsa for live nude bands when there are casinos.

They criticize gambling, but look who conduct raffles and bingo activities—which are a form of gambling—to raise funds for luxurious churches or cute funds.

Are our wrong values, Archbishop Rosales? Look at some of your fellow clergymen within the Catholic Church.

* * *

By the way, while everybody is focused on the "Hostagate" scandal, nobody has taken a look at the Bureau of Customs lately.

Since Bert Lina resigned as customs commissioner, seven people identified with Deputy Commissioner Salud Bautista have been having a field day.

For example, a certain Pete at the Intelligence and Enforcement Group under Serione allegedly demands from importers P1,000 per container that goes out of the customs area.

At Engineer Ramos, reportedly close to Antonio, also demands P1,000 per container. A Joe R., a computer scientist, also reportedly demands P1,000 to P5,000 per container.

INQUIRER Platinum Code

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Write an online word or sound or cell one-line phrase describing an issue involving your home town.

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 2899 for Globe/T, Globe, and Touch mobile subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand drawal.

To win, simply send 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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO
E-mail: metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Rose G. Dipasupil

Text or your feedback:

2nd gunman in bar slay?

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NBI WILL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is looking into the possibility that a second gunman may have been involved in the shooting incident that led to the death of a young television director outside an upscale Makati bar last June.

NBI Special Investigator Alfred Gaerlan of the NBI Background Investigation Bureau said at least two of MB+CBN director Leon "Lalgi" Intengan's Filipino American friends had accused that confessed gunman Oliver Jasmin "could not have shot him single. They kept saying that they heard two gunshots being fired while Jasmin was being interrogated," Gaerlan added.

Intengan's friends also stressed that a bulky man with Filipino features, not Jasmin, shot Lalgi, the NBI official said, adding that Jasmin could be described as tall, but lanky.

"Jasmin, while admitting that he indiscriminately fired at the crowd, denied that he killed Intengan," Gaerlan said.

Jasmin's camp had also hinted that if there was another shooter during the incident, it could have possibly been the friend of Jasmin's female companion, Claudia Angeles.

Jasmin had described Angeles' Hi-Ho Friend Glen Castro as a gun enthusiast, "Gaerlan said.

In an artist's sketch released by the NBI, Castro was described as 6'3" to 6'4" tall and heavily built.

Gaerlan said they are trying to trace Castro's whereabouts as he could help shed light on the case.

"Castro could be a vital witness because he was reportedly beside Angeles when she handed the gun to Jasmin," the investigator said.

Gaerlan said that Jasmin would help them find Castro after his preliminary hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court tomorrow.

However, Gaerlan clarified that while they are exploring the second gunman angle, all their present evidence points to Jasmin as the lone gunman.

"The wounded victims, including the policeman who responded to the scene, testified that Jasmin shot them," Lore has said.

SPO2 Marcgondi Bedarco, who was shot in the forearm, said Jasmin had pointed his gun at him and his partner "after seeing Intengan collapse by his side."

"We are now trying to convince Intengan's friends to execute sworn-statements at the barracks to support their claims," Gaerlan said.

MetroBriefs

Toilets for jail visitors

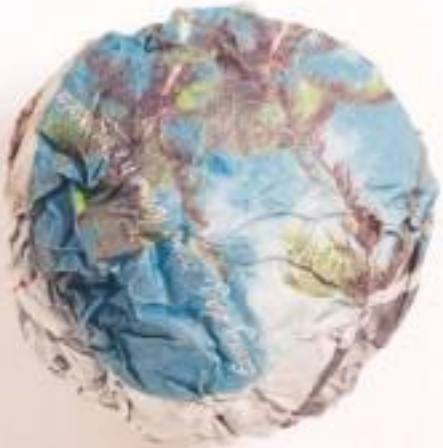
TOILETS at the Manila Police District (MPD) headquarters in Ermita will no longer need to beat accommodate visitors when they find the need "to go." The city jail has recently provided a comfort room just for them. Insp. Marites Pantoja, deputy warden of the city jail's male dormitory said the new toilet in the reception area was just one part of several makeover efforts for the city jail as ordered by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Two electric comfort rooms were also provided at the female dormitory. The kitchen got extra stoves installed. Jocelyn R. Ty

'Rush Lores protest'

FORMER Quezon City Vice Mayor Claudio Pelaez yesterday said the electrical protest of former Senator Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro should be accelerated to help solve the current political crisis. Pelaez, a prominent activist against the Marcos dictatorship, said the truth about the 2004 election, including the poor electoral conduct, could be established during the re-tabulation of election returns and recount of ballots in the vice presidential contest. Pelaez said she is volunteering to head a group that would watch the ballot recount to ensure the integrity of the exercise, and to help raise funds to pay for the expenses incurred in the activity. She added that she was willing to side the campaign with an initial personal donation of P1,000.

CCCI skills seminar

THE ONE-DAY Executive Center Inc. (CCCI), a non-profit group that promotes the arts and media for advocacy, is launching a three-day Multimedia Skills Seminar for Employability with a one-day seminar titled Visualization 3. Transformation. Any one interested including civil society organizations to upgrade their skills in information campaigns. The seminar will be held on Aug. 2 at the College of Architecture and Community Development, University of the Philippines, Diliman City.



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E-mail: sr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
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JONES CUP CAGING

Bronze could have been gold

By Marang B. Castillo

TAIPEI—Asi Taulava, Eric Menk and all the other big men in the Philippine team pool that finished a fighting third in the 27th Jones Cup championship here may be the elegant and powerful SUVs like the Navigator, the Expedition, or the Land Cruiser.

Not in the long and uphill road to the Beijing Olympics in 2008, national coach Chot Reyes believes that a smaller, two-door vehicle will take us there.

Not Honda the Low Rog, but those sleek, fun and furious Porsche and Ferrari.

"That's how the teams in Asia play right now—in pandemonium on the small court," Reyes told the Inquirer on Sunday, the morning after the Philippine-Asia Miguel squad formed part of the title race.

REYES

SIOSIA

DELA CRUZ

Despite a lineup which he said could have been stronger, Reyes said the tactical system Nationals were in gamecoached fast three, plus big third (not fourth as previously reported) over Qatar and Jordan by virtue of a better quotient that decided their three-way tie.

The United States team Passing Lane were the champs marshal, with Chinese Taipei trailing the silver medal.

"The style of play and the composition of teams (in Asia) have basically been a corner and four shooters who can also run," Reyes said. "The non-centers may not actually be small, but they can play small."

The Reyes coach mentioned our big team who can play small—Asi Miguel's 6-foot-7 forward Mo Belencion—as the one he wanted the most in the team pooled.

Danny Seigle would have also been a prime fit with his ability to hit the outside shot, rebound and defend players smaller or bigger than him.

Every opponent which gave Reyes a hard time have had the same weapons: they had the quickness and the outside shot.

In an epic final game against the United States which the Philippines lost, 96-90, the men from the protectorate did the most damage, especially in the end game when the Filipinos threatened hard.

Terrence Johnson, a 6-foot-2 guard with a sweet stroke, earned 30 points built around four three-pointers in the third period. He went on to finish with 34 rebounds for the DS, the most by any player against the Philippines in the tournament.

Reyes admitted almost freaking at seeing how Hasan, which the Nationals beat handily, played.

"They're not the (Dominican) national team," he raved. "But do you see how smooth they played? Andy and Argentina play the same way and it's a style (of game) I like so much."

Against host Chinese Taipei on Saturday night, the Filipinos dished a total of 33 triples, six of them in the first period and the last three coming in the final fourteen and 11 seconds.

Those trays opened up the inside for 6-foot-10 Dong Wen-ching, who went on to scratch the Philippines with 20 points on a perfect 10-of-10 from the field. The 21-year-old Taiwanese giant also collared 10 rebounds and had six blocks.

The first RP loss, which came in the hands of a bunch of high schoolers from the Australian Institute of Sports, also followed the same final pattern—Ryan Rowland and 6-7 swingman Stephen Weigh connecting with impressive bone-the-outside.

Reyes expects a lot from his guards and swingmen in sending the middle for Yeduva and Menk.

And he is digesting all the lessons learned in this tournament, throwing some away.

"We're running an schedule as far as Hia Asia (2007) is concerned," said Reyes, who also admitted that if the Asian Games were to be played next month, "we'd be lucky to land a medal."

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Sizzling Banal debut as Lions score

By Jasmine M. Payo

THE SAN Beda Lions may have found hope in new coach Boy Banal.

Banal made a grand NCAA basketball tournament debut yesterday as he propelled the Lions to second defending champion Philippine Christian U 3rd plates, 79-71, at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Senior forward Jerwin Gaston delivered his finest performance for the season with 27 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks, leading the Lions to their first win.

Banal, however, credited former Lions mentor Nash Racela for the major input.

"I will give all the credit to coach Nash. It's still his system," said Banal, who assumed the duties as the 2005 SBAA varsity campaign before getting tops with the Tamaraws last year.

The Dolphins dropped their second straight game for a 6-2 record, while the Li-

GAMES YESTERDAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)

ons, who shared the basement with Jose Rizal U Bombers in the first round, moved up to 3-5.

Further, the Lions' Mapua booster ce a solid third-quarter performance to come in a 61-45 win over the former St. Scholastica Honors.

Top-forward Jay Najarro powered the Stags with 14 points and 17 rebounds. He was backed by Red Hussien and Jiro Vera who contributed 13 points apiece.

The Shores shielded in their fifth straight loss after a strong 3-0 start.

Meanwhile, MCAO chair Fr. Shiner Cadeo of Notre Lions said at least four agents from the National Bureau of Investigation were deployed to yesterday's games.

The league turned to the bureau recently for help in containing alleged game-fixing, point shaving and other gambling forms using the results of the basketball league.

"We just want a clean tournament," said Cadeo.

Reserve shot 16 points in the first half which the Lions took at 40-28. Adjarod Dar took over in the third quarter to give the Lions a 11-point cushion, 52-30.

Lobby Espino and Jason Cuero supplied a rally but the Dolphins could get no closer than the in the last 21 seconds.

In junior play, the Cubs extend past the Baby Dolphins, 89-87, in extended action of A-1. The Staglets shared the lead after the posting of the tentative, 79-84.

The scores:

First game

FIRST HALF—Gaston 14, Dela Vega 14, Alcantara 13, Quinto 12, Ayala 11, Ramos 8, Aquino 5, Cabrera 2, Cruz 2, Ramos 2, Lim 2, Espino 2, Agbulos 2, Cuero 2.

SECOND HALF—Gaston 13, Dela Vega 11, Quinto 11, Alcantara 9, Ramos 8, Aquino 5, Cabrera 2, Cruz 2, Ramos 2, Lim 2, Espino 2, Agbulos 2, Cuero 2.

Second Game

SAN BEDA (8)—Gaston 27, Quinto 14, Dela Vega 11, Ramos 8, Alcantara 7, Aquino 5, Cabrera 2, Cruz 2, Ramos 2, Lim 2, Espino 2, Agbulos 2, Cuero 2.

PCU (3)—Gaston 24, Cuero 14, Ayala 9, Cruz 8, Cortez 5, Dela Cruz 5, Alcantara 5, Pascual 5, Dela Cruz 4, Cortez 3, Dela Cruz 3, Alcantara 3, Pascual 3, Dela Cruz 2, Cortez 2, Dela Cruz 2, Alcantara 2, Pascual 2, Dela Cruz 1, Cortez 1, Dela Cruz 1, Alcantara 1, Pascual 1.

Halftime: 39-31, 61-54, 82-45, 79-71

SAN BEDA'S Eduardo Yecon and PCU's Carlos Martin Cecilio dispute possession during their game yesterday

Format, Shell fate up in PBA meeting today

POSSIBLE changes in the tournament format for the upcoming season reign the agenda when the Philippine Basketball Association holds its regular monthly meeting today.

Here when Ely Capacio of San Miguel will preside over the meeting set at 12 noon at the San Miguel offices on Ortigas Avenue.

Also on the agenda is the Shell's bright on the agenda and that the board would want to hear from Shell representative Bobby Kampil regarding the plans of the Turbo Chargers in the league.

"It's high time that Mr. Kampil shares their plans with the (PBA) board," Capacio said.

Kampil has been reported to be contemplating on selling its franchise, and the company's final decision is an integral part of the league's calendar of activities for the coming season.

Meanwhile, commissioner Noli Eala will also give an accomplishment report of the All-Star Miguel team that capped the Senior World in the Jones Cup in Taipei on Sunday.

An evaluation of Eala's performance by the board, Capacio said, is not on the agenda. "but can be discussed if somebody raises the issue."

Marang B. Castillo

Olympic body briefs Lapid on cage row

THE CURRENT row in Philippine basketball has touched an intrigued Senate.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco personally explained to Sen. Lito Lapid, chair of the Senate committee on youth and sports, the Olympic body's side on its ongoing war with the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

In a four-page letter to Lapid, Cojuangco cited the reasons behind the expulsion of the BAP and the creation of the Philippine Basketball Federation at the recent national congress for the sport.

The POC chief said he had given BAP officials, namely, president Tito Uriral and secretary general Gilbert Lim "heeny ... to shape up and get their act together."

But the talking point, Cojuangco said, came when the Basketball national team lost to the newly formed Southeast Asia, team up of former pro pros and show business personalities, in the final of the National Basketball Conference per season tournament.

OLYMPIC ICE

Veterans head RP triathlon bets in SEA Games

NATIONAL champion Arland Macasaet and Sandra Amaclin will spearhead the Philippines campaign when triathletes make its debut in the Southeast Asian Games this coming will host Cebu Metropolitan.

Macasaet and Amaclin, who ruled the Luzon will be the other SP team teammates with runners Mikki Quilala, 17, and Wimi Lucas, 15, picked as runners who will be teaming with the national host. The six athletes topped the three qualifying series conducted by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) according to TRAP president Toni Carrasco yesterday.

The qualifying events were the Superman National Triathlon, the Subic Bay International Triathlon, and the Asian Triathlon, where De Leon eyed the national swimmer's triathlon crowned with a top 3 Open humanoid.

"It will be a three-cornered fight among the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore," said Carrasco. "However, I am more optimistic about the gold medal chances of our female members. In the men's side, Arland has to work in his swimming to finish strong in the race leg."

As part of the team's preparation and depending on the availability of funds, Carrasco said the SP here would either train in Australia for six weeks, or he would bring here instead Australian Rob Pollard to help the marshling staff prepare the team.

Aside from the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore, the other countries joining the triathlon event are Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

Cambodia and Myanmar are only joining the men's division of the event on Dec. 1 and 2 in Cebu.

IngBox
Question of the Week
Do you support the moves to impeach the President?
Senators of what? Or both as publish? or Tuesday's IngBox poll, part review at "Inquirer Short's"
Text your answers to 2327 (Globe) or 2351 (Smart), then type INQ space YES or NO space your city/province. Example: INQ YES MANILA
Inquirer text messages/day/mailing address to 2327 or 2351 on their prices and tax applied to them.

CDO'S Roldan Sara (left) and Joseph Trajano of La Salle-Greenhills battle for possession during the midgame final. The Hondurean champions prevailed, 19-17, to bag the title.

San Beda, HAU nail Asian Streetball berths

SAN BEDA College and Holy Angel University clinched berths to the Asian Streetball Finals on Sunday by sailing to the national and girls divisions, respectively, at the close of the 2005 adidas Streetball Challenge at the Bulwagang Balagtas.

With hardly any 6-5 figures powering his way underneath for 15 points, the San Beda squad demolished Visayas champions Silay Saging College, 17-14, to capture the division crown and the P150,000 cash prize plus a gift package worth P200,000 from the sponsoring adidas.

The HAU ingredients, on the other hand, prevailed by the skin of their teeth over a tough University of Mindanao side, 18-15, to pocket the girls division in the two-day finals co-presented by Globe Games.

The Lions champions, who also topped the UM leg to claim pre-final match, 13-12, Saturday, likewise won P150,000 in cash and P200,000 worth of adidas gift certificates.

San Beda, the National Capital Region champion, and Holy Angel U then advanced to the semifinal when Visayas foes Cebu Doctors' College and Silay Saging College, respectively, bowed out.

Lenzo Mico Ramirez fired 11 points while Kathrina Reyes and Margot Diaz teamed in three and two points for HAU, which got a big lift from the debut of Batangas NCR champion JD Gilleran by dint of University of San Carlos Hanpas earth en in the duty.

But the Pampanga lass had to go through some anxious moments before disposing of this stubborn URI superbelles in the 20-minute encounter and entering a clash at the prestigious Asian event headed by McDonald's, Cheesler Shakes, tantrics, Snickers chocolate bar, Coppertone, adidas fragrances and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Mills, Rosemade, Hot Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

While Dagupan pressing contraption in adidas, Ilan Beda for the money from an 11-all contest in the last five minutes of play. He connected layup with 33 seconds left sealed the win for the Montalvo-based cagers, who overcame the absence of top gun Ragmac Mentor throughout the finals.

Ian Tagaran, John Carlos Hernaida Jr. and Edmundo Tacson Jr. proved up to task in the highly physical finals. Tacson chipped in four points and Hernaida had two.

The victory was a revenge of sort for San Beda, which dropped a 16-15 decision to Wesl Negros College in their pre-final game.

In juniors play, La Salle-Greenhills used its height and skill advantage to trounce University of Southern Philippines Foundation, 21-11, Saturday for the crown.

Vince Anthony Pena and Nicolas Salvosa came through with several points apiece as the NCR champions seized control early and never looked back to coast to the victory worth P150,000 plus P50,000 worth of adidas gift certificates.

Matthew Wilson Ilo added six points, while Mauro Amorin Valo had one for La Salle, which swept its three games in the pre-final phase.

The win actually made up for La Salle's defeat in the culminator City Government of Cagayan de Oro squad, the Mindanao champions, in the midgets finals, 17-15.

Carlos Emmanuelpaz Bautista made eight points, John Reeves scored five and Bobbie Jaro and Renith Llanderos contributed three each for the Cagayan de Oro lass who also took home the winner's prizes.

U of Makati fives sweep Naascu foes

By Mars Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY of Makati downed its rivals in the seniors and juniors divisions of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament yesterday at the UM Gym.

The Utush Wizards edged Arau Computer, 77-76, to improve their record to 2-0 to extend the endurance on leaders University of Manila, St. Clare and STI.

Earlier, the Young Wizards drubbed Notre Children of St. Claire Montessori Center, 99-80, to post their first victory in three days.

It was BUSCMC's third defeat in as many games.

Jiamee Mangunay led the Wizards with 26 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Earlier, Lanice added 16 points and six rebounds.

Archie Ordillo, Mark Bill and Jared Suarez paced Amaco, which took to fourth spot in five games. Ordillo had 24 points and three assists, Bell added 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Suarez chipped in 11 points.

Earlier, Karl Bugarin exploded with 32 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Young Wizards while BUSCMC leaned on Abric Gras, who mustered 20 points and collared 11 boards.

STANDINGS	W	L
UM	3	0
UPIS	3	0
STI	3	0
UMak	2	1
CDU	1	1
CEU	1	2
Amaco	1	3
DLS	0	3
HAU	0	4

Also putting up big performances were Russell Narciso, who notched 16 points and eight rebounds, and Arnold Jr. Tinsilli, who made 11 points and incurred four assists.

Daniel Nadres added 14 points, Jaspen Sarthou 11 and Mark Dalin 10 for BUSCMC.

Marquicias-Laborte tops Petron volley

PHOTO SHOT That's Diane Declan as she receives a shot in yesterday's bout at the Rajamala.

POWER SPIKERS Ruby Mangunay and wifey Sheryl Laborte wrapped the amazing run of City College of Manila's Diane Declan and Jennifer Palma and won the third leg of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament with a unanimous 25-7, 21-7 victory in at the Manila Baywalk.

Mangunay, who is formerly from the Rizalista province, is the longest City and Laborte of UNO-R in Bataan, were unstoppable with their booming spikes and service winners to pull off the liquidated victory.

"We didn't give them (Declan and Palma) any breathing room to make their moves. That's what they did to their earlier victims. We just went for the kill to every opportunity and it paid off," said the dusky and brawny Mangunay, a member of the Philippine volleyball training pool.

Petron's Chie-Anne Gatdula and Che'Che Yaghang, Jhenden Lou Jachmenoc and South volley organizer Tisha Alcasid awarded the P50,000 cash prize and trophies to the champion team in the volleyball sponsored by Petron and organized by Alcasid in cooperation with the Manila Sports Council (Msasc).

More importantly Mangunay and Laborte clinched automatic berths to the national finals on Oct. 1 and 2, also at the Manila Baywalk.

Alcasid in the finals set first leg winners Patricia Sarang and Jessa Mae Sedanoza of the Philippine Army and second leg Ilikis Michelle Laborte-Sheryll's eldest sister—and Cecille Sibonia of the Philippine Navy.

Mangunay and Malou, who have never made it past the elimination round in previous stagings, received P5,000 and trophies as runners-up of the beach volleyball extravaganza also hosted by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Toyota Boxing Team, Villa de Oro, Asian Spords (official sponsor) and Milcars (official ball).

Msasc-listed ish Mirasol said they would make the semifinals at the Baywalk and the Manila Yacht Club a permanent fixture for all Manilabeaches enjoy.

Domingo's service ventured in the first set after a wayward volley and a cool error by Laborte to really consummate the 25-7 win for the duo at 1-1. But the Visayans swung up eight straight points, five coming from Mangunay' towering kills, to momentarily seize control of the contest at 11-4.

A service blunder by Mangunay and a spike by Domingo gave UCH momentary breathing space at 9-11 but not enough for Malou and entire volleys by Domingo fueled another run by the winners, who closed out at 25-8 lead en route to the 25-7 win.

Visibly stung by their foes' breathtaking duos, Domingo and Declan wouldn't get their usual game going and left behind by as much as 17-9 in the second set.

Bumgarner returns for 'Kingdom' clash

BUMGARNER

OLIVECRUZ

Perseny team in Italy.

She leads the grassroots ICA Open class with 209 points.

Caldwell, skipper of the Cebu Sailing Group, is running neck-and-neck with Jones Jose whose 16 points in the Asian Sailing indicted last June.

Out to spoil the Bumgarner-Caldwell duel in this event sponsored by the Philippine Shell, Clorox Jockstrap, Swimpants by Philippine Allied Ins. Corp., Hilti Corp. Solutions, Kaisahang Motors pole Racing, Associated and Swiss Insurance is Marlon Stockinger.

The first champion in the short track last year, Stockinger is currently in fourth with 1,111 points behind Philippine Sailing Federation body Alfredo Lim (1,577).

Joining them in the event are Kevin Delores and Mark Bumgarner.

Paolo Iglesia, Patricia Guanio and Paolo Gonzalez are also favourites in their respective divisions in the event sanctioned by the governing dinghy-ISAF Association of the Philippines.

Korean training for nat'l archers

THE MEMBERS of the team with NAAP officials Dr. Leonora Fe S. Brawner and Ligaya P. Manalang and Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ramon Bravener before flying to Seoul.

TWELVE members of the national archery team left for Seoul, South Korea, yesterday to undergo training in preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set here from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Those who left were Athens Olympian Jasmin Figueroa, Pretty Joy Martinez, Rodolfo Aase Cabral, Ildefonso Arthur Reyes, Barbara Gina Adrigal Dedigan, Phoenix Melan, Mark Jesley Orenian Cobilla, Marvin Cordero, Sol Melchizar Flor and Israel Sandee Lee Reyes.

The archery team accompanied by team boss Henry D. Manalang and Perlito Gomez Jr. and technical therapist for disaster Dr. Bravener.

National Archery Association of the Philippines president Dra Leonora Fe S. Bravener and secretary treasurer Ligaya P. Manalang saw the team off together with Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ramon Bravener.

"They will hone their skills at the training center of top Korean coach Kim Hyun Tak," Dr. Bravener explained.

She thanked the sport's godfather, San Miguel Corp., and also Pres Gendoman Francia.

Figueroa's trip, as well as that of coach Manalang, is co-sponsored by Executive Cooktail Center Inc.

Atty. Theresa Mangahas, executive director of the Philippine Olympic Committee Foundation, will also fly to Korea shortly to observe the archers' training.

Spring, SSC-Cavite down rivals

PTA, NCDA-SPRING and San Sebastian College-Cavite scored convincing victories Sunday in the 9th Jaycee Juniors Cup basketball tournament at the Philsports gym in Makati City.

The Spring reigns of Mayor Joey Hizon'ally and businessman Johnny de Asis hosted an Ilocos Hawaii and Mike Swan to note our playing were manager Mike Bello' Mediators, 75-71.

Ka'pro Reef Biotechnologists shone for Mediator last case and of season in the morning seconds.

The SSC-Cavite Stags toppled the Fil-Mahi fleet, 71-61, in the other game. The Stags sent their top and gun stalwart to the experienced Stars of Medical Vice Mayor Renato Bautista and team manager Ser Gonzalez.

Chris Dickson, Mark Sta. and Jerome Cruz combined for 45 points as the Stags bowled their encores 1-1 in the event supported by SanMiguel, Air21, Baker's Pan, Firestick, RFC Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Power Cleaner.

VOLLEY CHAMPS Members and officials of the Magnolia Hurst Oil Holy Cross of Davao College pose with their champion's trophy after topping the San Miguel Corp.-Gen. Alfredo S. Lim Veteran's volleyball championship at the University of Mindanao gym in Davao City on Sunday. The Holy Cross spikers downed Pureblock Cleaner Chunkmunity of Mindanao Cardinals for the crown.

Doyle fires record 63, tops Sr tilt

KETTERING, Ohio—Allen Doyle shattered the US Senior Open final-round record closing with an 8-under 63 to win his third Champions Tour major on Sunday.

"No one thought I had a chance," Doyle said. "That's the way it's been for me [over] the last 3. It doesn't bother me one bit. It happens. You just have to put a low score up and make it happen."

Doyle had a bogey-free round that included eight birdies, and he managed to avoid the trouble that knocked third-round co-leaders Craig Stadler and Loren Roberts, as well as D.A. Weibring and others out of contention. His final-round 63, which beat the course record by a stroke, was the lowest by a US Senior Open veteran.

Doyle beat the previous final-round score by four shots and finished at 18-under 274, and one shot ahead of Roberts and Weibring. The winning worth $470,000 (euro 380,000), was his 18th on the Champions Tour.

He might have been the only person who wasn't surprised by the outcome.

He played golf with his oldest daughter, Erin, last week and she asked if he thought he could win another major championship.

"I think I can win a major even easier than a regular event, because par is more important," Doyle told her.

Stadler had by three shots with 13 holes to play, but imploded and finished four shots behind Doyle. Roberts was in control until making a double-bogey at No. 11. Weibring was on top by a shot with two holes left, but his ... missed both.

Tony Thomas and Tom Watson, among others, had opportunities to steal the championship, but failed to make putts on the undulating greens at SCR Country Club. AP

VIJAY Singh examines his drive on the 1st hole during the final round of the Buick Open at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club.

Vijay holds off Tiger charge, keeps title

MONTREAL—Vijay Singh held off a late charge by Tiger Woods to retain his Buick Open title by four shots at Grand Blanc, Michigan, on Sunday.

Fijian Singh, five strokes clear overnight, fired a two-under par 70 to finish on 274-un... 26th at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club and secure his fourth PGA Tour victory of the year.

World No. 1 Woods, who won the British Open two weeks ago, studied into a tie for second place with a 68 that included six birdies and an eagle-two at the 14th.

Woods, right off the pace at the start of the day, picked up seven shots in seven holes from the par-three 11th on his way to a scorching back nine of six-under 30.

However, the US Masters champion began and ended his round with a bogey and had to settle for a share of second with fellow Americans Zach Johnson, who carded a 69.

"I got it going a little bit, but I needed to do that to give myself any kind of chance," said Woods. "I thought at least if I played solid on the back nine, I'd finish second probably, and if I played a good back nine, I might be in position just to raise Vijay pressure up.

"He's playing too well to do that. But you never know.

"The holes are pretty easy, but you just never know. That's why we play the game. Vijay is playing beautiful, so he deserved to win."

"It was a good fight at the end but I just didn't quite get it done.

WOODS

"I'm not quite ready yet [for the PGA]. I've got a couple of things to work on at home but I'll be rested and ready." After three spectacular rounds, Singh claimed his 20th career title and third Buick crown with a steady performance that included just two bogeys.

The time of Singh's victory suggested he is ready to defend his PGA title in two weeks' time in Ballam of in New Jersey.

"I wasn't in aggressive today," said Singh, who will return home to Florida to work on his final preparations for the season's final major.

"I wasn't uncomfortable, but I wasn't at ease with what I was doing out there.

"I felt very much in control but at the same time I didn't want to make any mistakes. Nobody was really making a charge earlier on and I wanted to get into a position where I was hitting greens and making pars.

"Tonight's the end, it got a little exciting, and that's when I picked it up a little bit.

"It's tough to go out there with a five-shot lead, it's nice ... but I would rather have gone out there and taken the golf course on.

"I try not to get complacent. I try to play in the present ... and that's what I did." Reuters

Hackett pockets 3 golds in world meet

MONTREAL—Grant Hackett finished the 15th world championships as he started them by winning another gold medal to enhance his reputation as the greatest long-distance swimmer on the final night of competition on Sunday.

The Australian raced with his stroke to capture the 1500-m freestyle to become the first swimmer to win the same event four times, eight days after he won his first 800-m freestyle gold.

The 25-year-old love student also became the first person to win seven individual world titles, surpassing the previous record of six he shared with Ian Thorpe and Michael Phelps, and finished the week with three golds after he also shattered Thorpe's 400-m world record.

Phelps won his 8th gold awaited on Wednesday without even getting wet on Sunday when the United States took out the men's 4x100-m medley relay.

GRANT Hackett en route to winning the gold medal in the 1500-m freestyle.

Phelps was not selected in the team but still got a medal because he swam in the heats.

American swimmer Eaton Hall struck gold for the third time when she won the 400-m individual medley to ensure the US topped the medals table with 13 golds.

Australia, which dominated the women's events with 15 titles, was three golds on Sunday as Kaede entered with 12 golds. Hungary, South Africa, France and Poland finished tied for third with two each.

Australia's Jade Edmistone set the ninth and final world record of the meet to win the 50-m breaststroke while her compatriot, Libby Lenton, won the 50-m freestyle to claim her first individual world title after winning two relays.

Laszlo Cseh of Hungary captured on Phelps' decision to skip the 400-m individual medley to win in a time of four minutes 09.63 seconds, doing the gap on his closest rival.

Yuri Martin of Italy finished second in 4:11.67 while Dannenia Mellouli of Tunisia was third in 4:12.47.

Alexandra Grigoriadis became the first Greek to win a world title with victory in the 50-m backstroke, snatching the gold in 24.91.

Hackett, awarded the 10th Trophy for the first time male swimmer of the meet, had all the ingredients to win it a time of 14:42.38 and record his unbeaten record in the event since 1996. Reuters

Jang clinches British Open

SOUTHPORT, England—Aline Jeong Jang had already wrapped up the Women's British Open, Another Intercepts took a moment to contemplate her own failed bid for her third major title of the year.

Jang, who led after each round and entered the day with a five-stroke lead, shot a 2-under 69 on Sunday to finish 16-under 272 at Royal Birkdale and win by three strokes. It was the first victory of her six-year LPGA career.

Sorenstam, last to ball off the tee on the way to a double bogey at the 10th and second up in a tie for fifth, seven shots back. Sorenstam's final round 71 left her at 6-under 279. AP

Agassi takes LA crown

LOS ANGELES—Top-seeded Andre Agassi beat fellow Medal of Lanzenberg, 6-4, 7-5, in the Mercedes-Benz Cup final on Sunday for his 60th career title.

Coming back from a two-month lay-off because of a chronic tennis elbow problem, the 35-year-old Agassi capped an impressive run through the tournament that he also won in 1998, 2001 and 2003.

"I felt amazing. Those moments don't happen very often any more and I'm taking it in," Agassi said after winning for the first time in almost a year. AP

Olympic body briefs . . .

Calamayan said the ban left as the building of a basketball summit that addressed the "governance, development and control of Philippine basketball" and eventually led to the BAP suspension when it emerged an agreement forged during the meeting.

"We hoped that the suspension would remove BAP's stumbling," said Calamayan in his letter. "But the BAP instead bragged that the FIBA (the international basketball federation) would ensure its continued recognition by the latter (IOC)."

The IOC later expelled the BAP, but the fifty rejected this and instead banned the Philippine team competing in international tournaments.

Education first, competition second

THE IBSA is to learn. Not to win. A championship is but a bonus.

Those were the code words of coach Chot Reyes when he recently brought his players to Las Vegas and Taipei.

Chot has signed of nearly 20 players to work out in his bid to form a crew that would hopefully join the 2006 world championship and the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The last time we were in the world championship was in 1978. It was in Munich. In 1972 Chot we had our last taste of Olympic basketball.

To win of the title is either one of the two is absolutely utopia.

Just to be there, though, would be an incredible achievement in itself.

"If we don't do it now, when are we going to do it?" said Chot of his dream of qualifying in either one of them, or even in both.

Dare to dream, dare to win.

It's an impossible dream only fools would dare dream of.

But maybe, Chot must have realized in saying that happens to be one of my favorites. The coach excels fighting for not the last reason.

For indeed, Chot's dream is almost equivalent to putting men on planet Mars.

It's almost next to impossible realizing that, but still it's attainable.

Knowing Chot, his career he stopped, not even if his mark is blocked by a boulder mile. He is three Hour, a One Quixote if you will, hustling windmills to his mind.

One steeped in principles, one who is hardly stubborn, don't what argument Chot from the vital.

He has, for starters, left a well-paying job as coach in the PBA (GIBA), 6,000-story coach wondering how and there to college leagues, the PBL and NBC crown.

Nineteen-one-million would be falling on Chot to trace his back on a job that pays no less than a hundred thousand banks a month?

I don't get that much writing pieces here in praise of people building careers in sports, when I mostly become millionaires sooner or later. Not to brag but I earn at last any problem with that. Labor of love no favor to call it.

Seemingly, Chot is quite in our league, too.

For all we know, Chot had to endure weeks agonizing over his decision to reach the national team.

For all we know, his wife, at the start, must have nearly advised of the idea.

Who wouldn't?

My cousin think San Miguel Corp. enough for winning to the owners willing by absorbing whatever the financial may it would take to coax Chot to make like or stay that.

It's a shift detailed by latest released animals. Armchair executives would call. Chot's career change story.

I've heard of some shamelessly willing to compromise, if not coffee and burger money, just to land a coaching job in the PBA.

Not Chot Reyes.

If he were in command of a conglomerate, Chot would readily trade his CEO post to a janitor if that is what it would take to realize his job done.

In Las Vegas, Chot finished 2-0 in the Global Hoops tour.

A hard one, you say?

Someone.

The Global Hoops is a tournament that puts amateur teams on Brooklyn than professional teams. Teams from around the world are invited there for friendly basketball.

Stocked plum there, no names up, no champion.

Just people who love basketball, who spouse, spent friendship through basketball. Organizers promise a medal for second place from that name.

But Chot did more than that. He used the tournament as a school to learn new tricks. That's a spirit worthy to me.

In the post-ended Taipei Jones Cup, Chot's boys almost finished first when they were just recently trying to educate themselves, playing third consistently.

I say that ain't bad, considering that Chot's boys had come intimidatingly close to winning against teams conceded as much superior stars.

This came amid Chot's battle cry of "Education first, competition second."

Hey, that was an effort already worth more than the championship trophy.

Salvador Isonio, sayisonio.

Comments: comments@philstar.com

BIG SWEEP! Jody Canarong (No. 16) powers around a bend ahead of Dominic Bautista and Philip Rhemdo on the way to completing a sweep of the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently. The series is sponsored by Petron Gitron, Toyota Motors Phils., Honda Verna, Gilmore Motors, Denso, MOP Company and Pilipinas Shell.

August Fore! Invitational set at Wack Wack Friday

SOCIO-CIVIC projects of the Rotary Club of Dilimon will be the main beneficiaries of the tenth outing of the modified scramble format golf tournament set this Friday at the new course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Tee-off time is 8 a.m. preceding the 7 a.m. registration. Members of RC Dilimon join guests, sponsors and patrons in the 18-hole event using the modified scramble format. Four players comprise a team.

This year's sponsors include Performance Foods Corp., Nestlé Phils. (Swift Steel Series), Barclays Capital Asia Limited, International Container Terminal Services Inc., Zuellig Corp., Manila Bank, Maybank Phil. Inc., J.C. Feldman, San Miguel Super Dry Stars, ABC Foundation through Mr. Lou Edwards and S.L. Agro tech.

For the hole-in-one prizes, Ayala Corp. is donating a Honda Motorcycle, Toyota Motors Central Consolidated

Marvin soon ...

ground, low-key but it's always anticipated. "My friends don't want to advertise it," he says. "It's just a place where we hang out and are comfy. Word gets around, I guess."

Pick-known bands like Slowsonyo and Mosquito, as well as aspiring bands, play at SIKO on any given night. The wall covered with assisted-'singers' signatures was strewn to stage backdrop is an indication that it's a place where free spirits converge. Is it any coincidence that Spoon's gold-toned Andy Sanchez decides to serve a bar...Zambuana? They don't need to think home, though, because Spoo and Jo-dey are so intertwined with each other!

Dawn is dead!

ZOMBIES of GMA-7's refurbishment of Marc Reyes's "Dawn" got the biggest shock last Friday when the Pinay superhero emerged dead from the biggest hands-over mess on the primetime TV series. They had supposed Sunita (played by Angel Locsin) to survive the formidable clash with the forces of evil, as she had done in past struggles, but the Pinay superhero gave her life in an ultimate sacrifice to save other people's lives.

Still weakened from her previous fight with the grossing forces of the "Upon ng Kadiliman," a horde of powerful villains headed by Sangada (Kelly Rodriguez) and Valentina (Mayumarkis de Guzman), Dawn entered to stop her archenemies from wreaking havoc all over the city. And when the enemies collaborated to form a giant ball of fire which they then hurled toward a crowd of people, Dawn used her own body to shield countless lives from sure death. She surrendered, though at the expense of her own life.

Did Dawn's death, the "Upon ng Kadiliman" will surely be leading it over the land. But the good news is, enough cosy evil. Who will be saving mankind from the merciless villains' wrath?

The top-rating fantaseryo gets more exciting with every twist and surprise that unfolds. "Dawn" airs weeknights after "Te-ros Challenge."

(For feedback, e-mail: entertainment@abs-cbn.com.ph or dalyanes@philstar.com)

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

Editor Raoul D. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Carmela S. Martinez

Inflation seen to taper off to 6.5%

But rate may rise in early 2006 due to VAT hike

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas sees the country's inflation rate tapering off to 6.5 percent by December this year after staying at a high of 8.5 percent from February to May.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo yesterday told reporters that the inflation rate had been on a downtrend since June and this would continue at least up to December. He said the inflation rate might rise again after the implementation of a two percentage-point hike in the value added tax (VAT) this coming January.

The inflation rate has gone down to 7.6 percent in June and the BSP is expecting further reduction to 6.5 percent in July.

The full impact of the VAT rate hike is expected to be felt by consumers by March next year.

The country's inflation started to ease in the second quarter due to the slowdown in the decrease in food prices, notwithstanding the rise in prices of energy-related items and other non-food commodities.

Guinigundo said that the narrowing interest rate differential between the Philippines

Slow progress on tax cases frustrates RATE proponents

By Dianne L. Lucas and Michelle V. Rivera

SPECIAL REPORT

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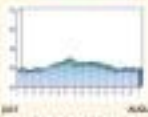

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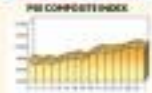
Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks close 0.87% lower

WHAT'S INSIDE

Market topping out

Treasury bill rates fall

Peso hits 3-week low, but closes at $56.14 to $1

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If it ain't broker

NOBODY could say if the officials of the Bangko Sentral got another pause from homeown ward attendants, but they actually tried their luck at...well, peacetalks.

Heading the Bangko Sentral peace panel was the new carpe-diem sort out of the country's monetary and financial system, Bangko Sentral Gov. Armando Tetangco.

Apparently, Tetangco wanted to broker peace between the war wearing gangs of stockholders at Equitable PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank.

Featured in the squabble were the Go family, who owned 25 percent, and the GSIS 100 Tuna Middle East-Inc group, which reportedly owned almost 67 percent.

In the Bangko Sentral-brokered peace talks, Tetangco's panel spent roughly 30 minutes with the Go family before the Go family reached results.

The GSIS 100 Tuna Middle East-Inc group, also known as the government bits, on the other hand, got a tough beat the Tetangco panel when it faced them for hours.

Nobody could say if the ease by which the Go family bonfired the Bangko Sentral brand of peace process was any indication of which side Tetangco was leaning on.

* * *

IT seems the Tetangco panel needed to work more on the government side, because the Tetangco panel gave the government six offer it could not refuse.

In effect, in living about peace to the bank, the Tetangco panel simply assured the government side to give way to the Go family.

After all, the Go family wanted to control the bank, with their 25 percent ownership, as the expense of the GSIS and the 100.

Sure, by suggesting that GSIS and 100 should give way to the Go family, Tetangco and company probably only wanted to protect public interest.

GSIS and 100, as you know, only invested some P4.5 billion of our retirement, disability and death benefit funds in the bank about six years ago.

Our pension funds also do not have anything to show for their investment in the bank up to now. In fact, the market value has already been cut by about half.

Be tax take, the Tetangco panel proposed three income-smoothing steps named peace in the bank—i.e. stunts gun to the stronghold by Go family.

And they were that the two sides, one, keep the management...two, stop the filing of court cases and, three, split the board seats between them.

By the way, to another version of brilliance to protect public interest, the Tetangco panel also told the two sides to stop talking to media. Hmm.

There, it's the media interest all over again. At the first sign of trouble, we always get the blame. It's as if we are the court hireling around.

* * *

AND so, since the Tetangco panel asked the two warring groups to stop filing cases, only two days after the peace talks, no wonder, the Go family filed three cases in succession.

Nobody could say if the Tetangco panel brokered peace was part of the strategy, but the Go family filed a case before the Makati court, another case before the Court of Appeals, and a third case before the Supreme Court.

All of the cases involved the 16 persons supposedly "treasury chairs," which the bank bought with its own money and not the Go family's money.

Six years ago, the Go family and the GSIS-100 went into a joint venture to buy PCIBank. The GSIS-100 gave P3.6 billion in hard cash.

The Go family contributed fixed strikes.

In other words, the Go family simply used the money of the bank in the joint-venture buyout. And all these years, the Go family has been using the "treasury shares" to help them keep control of the bank, even with only a 25-percent ownership.

In all these three cases, which the Tetangco panel supposedly did not issue the warring groups in file, the Go family sought to keep their command over the "treasury shares."

* * *

BASILIO, a Makati court issued an injunction involving three treasury shares. In effecting negating the TRO issued by another (Makati) court on the same shares.

Does hurt in my barongs, when GSIS and 100 members struggle to make cash meet, that the Go family is "actually stopping," meaning, it is bad.

Supposedly, a retired justice filed a case, asking the Makati court to force the corporate secretary of the bank, a young lawyer named Jessica Dicdican, to recognize those "treasury chairs" during the last annual stockholders meeting.

In other words, the Go family could use the "treasury chairs"—more again.

Now, another Makati court judge issued a TRO against the same "treasury shares," saying that they could not be used for the annual meeting.

First of all, one court cannot issue an order against another court. That is the rule. Otherwise, the courts can do nothing but fight each other inside like one politician.

Of course, there could always be millions of reasons why a court would break the rule. In this case, unfortunately, the interest of 100 and GSIS members was not one of them.

* * *

In effect, even if the case was supposedly filed against the bank, the injunction order actually favored the Go family in the stockholders meeting.

And Dicdica, as corporate secretary, followed it willingly without much of a whimper.

In the last stockholders meeting, the young Dicdica took it upon herself to preside, taking the role of the chair, none other than Tony Go.

Dicdica, without much ado, threatened to throw out those who did not follow the script that the Go family prepared for the meeting.

In fact, the court injunction order told Dicdica to do something that was against the by-laws of the bank. Dicdica did not even protest against it.

Under the bank by-laws, you see, treasury shares cannot be used to determine the existence of quorum in the stockholders meeting.

The government side has been arguing, if that was the case, it follows that the treasury shares could not be used to vote for board members.

For how can you use something that's not supposed to be there in the first place?

The government side complained that not only did the Go family, courtesy of the corporate secretary Dicdica, use the treasury shares to determine quorum, they also used the shares to vote for their directors in the board.

They of course voted for themselves. Oh, of course, and also for their friends, too.

* * *

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* * *

SINCE the Go family disrupted the Tetangco panel so court cause peace initiative, the government side does also went on night in the Supreme Court.

Otherwise, the government side would have lost their battle for reforms in the bank by default. In ordinary words, they were "making lang ka ba, parot ran."

And so it seems to me that the Bangko Sentral-brokered peace served at a ruse. It could have stopped the government side from taking the bank over.

How else would you look at it? Look, one of the other proposals by the Tetangco panel was for the two warring groups to split the board between them.

That means, the Go side (with 25 percent ownership) would get seven seats, and the government side (with 67 percent ownership) would also get...well, seven.

Aside from its using bad math analogies, as in "25-quash-67," the proposal of a split of seven seats between a minority and GSIS and 100 members as the stockholders.

Under the Tetangco panel's bright idea, the voting was in the board, the one remaining seat, would go to the management.

Thus, legitimate PCI president Jesse Bautista-ness, who would take the management seat, should become the most powerful person in the bank.

The Tetangco panel did not mind that Bautista-ness was the same guy who, in past tandem between the two groups, forgot to stay neutral by siding with the Go family.

While only makes you wonder where the Tetangco panel learned to mark. We, don't tell me, not from the usual sources, dami!

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LOWEST IN 11 YEARS
Tax effort slid in 2004 to 9.88%

By Michelle V. Rerro

THE CONTRIBUTION of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to Gross Domestic Product fell to 9.88 percent last year, its lowest level in 11 years.

The last time the tax effort—computed as the BIR's collections over GDP—for a single digit level was in 1993 when the tax effort reached 9.9 percent.

It went up to 11.39 percent in 1995 and hit a peak of 11.5 percent in 1997.

The tax effort has been falling ever since, from 11.47 percent in 1998 to 11.47 percent in 1999, 10.78 percent in 2000, 10.7 percent in 2001, and 10.16 percent in 2002.

The BIR said in its 2004 annual report that the 9.88-percent tax effort last year was based on P466,12 billion in collections.

It was more than P6 billion below the target of P477 billion, but 12.38 percent over the previous year's collection.

The tax effort is often used to measure the economy's ability to generate revenues.

It is based on the principle that the growth in economic productivity should be reflected in an increase in tax collection.

With the declining tax effort, BIR Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag said the revenue agency was bent on pursuing reforms to raise revenues and meet its collection target this year of P547 billion.

Buñag said these programs include the tax compliance verification drive, enhancement of the BIR's electronic services, and the BIR's "I-text ang Bunak-finalYe promo, which he said will increase the tax income in the BIR's revenue collection last year.

The government is counting on the revenue collection of the BIR to help close the budget gap this year such as reason for about 60 percent of the government's revenues.

The government hopes to reduce the budget deficit to P186 billion this year, from P197 billion last year.

Slow progress on tax cases . . .

Front page B1

seen objectives of collecting the unpaid liabilities of tax evaders, it did not achieve the long-term goal of curbing the culture of tax evasion.

He cites the case of actor Richard Gomez, whose counsel tax evasion case filed under the RATE program was already hit second. In his first case several years ago, the BIR agreed to drop the criminal charge against Gomez in exchange for the settlement of his tax liabilities, Jacquera said.

"Clearly, people don't trust these issues with the BIR's old policy," he complained.

Languishing cases

While the tax complainers have received broad attention in the media, progress on their legal side has been slow in coming. Finance officials, in particular, blame the justice department for not acting on the cases with the urgency they deserve.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño recently being blamed for the delays in the prosecution of alleged tax cheats, especially after then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima wrote President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo complaining about the justice department's "inaction."

The chief state prosecutor believes tax authorities—inexperienced and unfamiliar with criminal prosecution procedures—are to blame.

"We answered (Purisima's) letter, and I had to cite each case that's being delayed," Zuño said. "There are cases that were already filed in court for resolution, then (the BIR) files a motion to reopen the case because they realize they still have to present additional documentary evidence."

Clearly exasperated, he said such requests happened at least four times already. A second one, he said, the BIR filed those cases without enough evidence.

Zuño is aware that prosecuting tax evaders is an important component of the government's drive to put its fiscal house in order, which is why his office has been ever backward to accommodate the BIR.

"If we have to be strict with the cases, and if we have to apply the same policy as in other cases, we'll dismiss (them) outright for insufficiency of evidence," he said.

Given the BIR's haphazard approach in criminal prosecution, tax authorities are lucky their cases are still even being considered for filing, Zuño explained. "In truth, we are telling them what they still lack (to strengthen their cases)."

BIR officials, meanwhile, admit that they lack the experience needed to successfully prosecute tax evasion cases via criminal proceedings, but they refuse to take sole responsibility for the delays.

"I think it's safe to say that the DOJ doesn't have any idea about tax laws," Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said.

Henares denounce the justice department's assertion that tax authorities are hanging their cases with shoddy preparations. "As a tax lawyer, I would use our evidence to complete. You just have to show that the taxpayer's had income that was not reported. That's the best evidence."

Go it alone?

The BIR is so frustrated with the lack of progress at the justice department that some proponents of the RATE program are now considering to bypass the state prosecutor's office altogether.

Henares says there is a provision in the new Internal Revenue Code that allows tax authorities to take cases straight to regional trial courts or the Court of Tax Appeals.

There's the catch: the provision has never been used, and the BIR is here case to blow a case by taking a legal route that may eventually be struck down by a technicality.

"It's now a question of, 'are we willing to take the risk of testing the judicial process?,' she said. "There is a risk there." Tax authorities, in particular, don't want to be accused to "taking a dive" in any tax case by taking inconsistent legal route.

Even on this aspect, there is disagreement among the BIR leadership. Acting BIR chief Jose Mario Buñag believes no case can only prosper with the help of state prosecutors.

"We cannot go (to court) directly," he said. "We cannot be the complainant and the judge at the same time."

Buñag justified the need to channel tax cases through state prosecutors because "the judge will not dismiss it merely to court outside 'a lot of legal difficulties'".

Since March of this year, the BIR has filed 27 cases against suspected tax evaders before the Justice department. Seven of the cases have been cleared by Office of the State Prosecutor to be filed with the Court of Tax Appeals.

That means only 3.7 percent of the cases presented by tax authorities under the RATE program are considered strong by criminal prosecutors' standards.

The rest are languishing in the preliminary investigation stage because the cases made by tax authorities are either weak or lack documentary evidence, Zuño said. In short, officials cannot find "probable cause" that would merit these cases being brought before a judge.

Clearly, issues between the justice and finance departments, and those within the finance department are making its toll on the RATE program, which was once the government's most effective tax collection booster.

(To be concluded)

Treasury bill rates fall

By Michelle V. Rivera

TREASURY bill rates fell across the board yesterday, as the highly liquid market scrutinized the government securities.

The 182-day treasury bill rate dropped by 4.5 basis points to 6.589 percent, reversing the slight increase last week. The 182- and 364-day T-Bill rates declined by 0.4 and 2.5 basis points to 7.295 percent and 8.397 percent, respectively.

"Political considerations will always be there, but interests are now getting more focused on the economic situation rather than the political scene," said Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who headed yesterday's T-bill auction.

Tan said the government securities market, composed mostly of banks, showed confidence in the government's fiscal situation, given the huge amount of bids made by the investors.

All three T-bill issues were oversubscribed, with total tenders reaching P19.3 billion or higher than the government's debt offering of only P6 billion. Of the total amount, P6.1 billion was awarded for the 91-day T-bills, P6.3 billion for the 182-day issue, and P6.8 billion for the 364-day issue.

Asked when the government would tap the international market again to raise the remaining $800 million worth of foreign-currency requirements for the year, Tan said the government would still have to wait for a "proper timing."

He said one factor that could improve the environment for an international borrowing would be a favorable Supreme Court decision on the expanded Value-Added Tax law.

Finance officials are hoping the high court would lift the suspension of the VAT law, considered the key revenue-raising measure of the Arroyo administration. This is expected to generate about P84 billion in annual revenue starting next year.

The lifting of the suspension is seen to raise the confidence of foreign and domestic investors in the country's fiscal standing.

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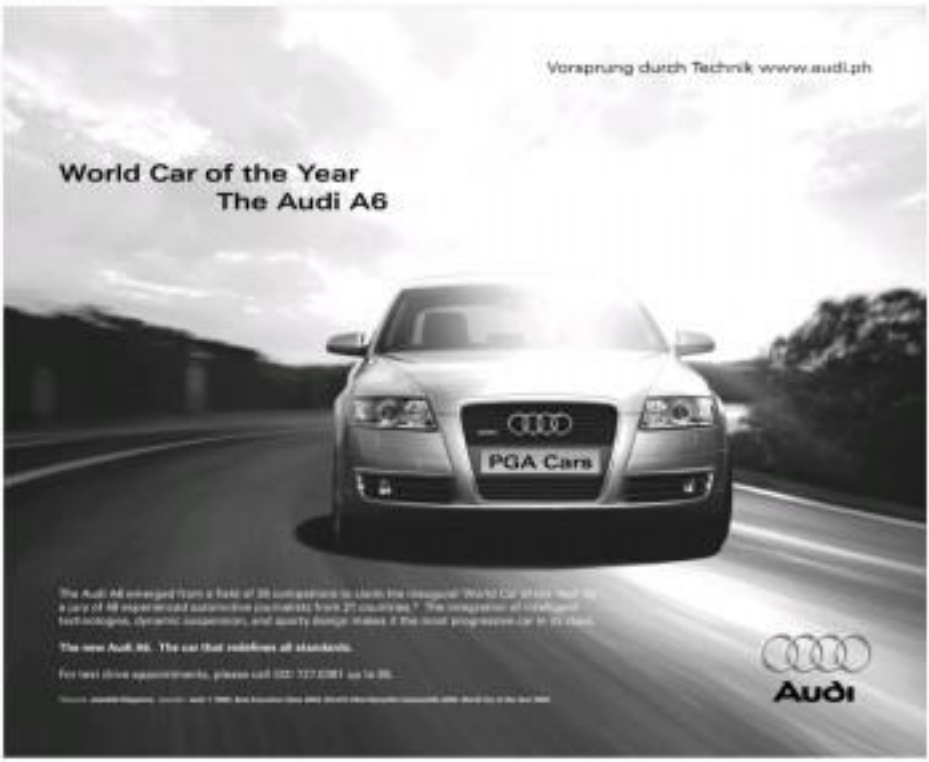

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Market topping out

MR. BEARBULL

Rico Narbonne

Stocks close 0.87% lower

Inflation

DISCLOSURES

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Gov't may sell its stake in Landbank

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT is looking at selling as much as 49 percent of its shares in state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines to boost its capital and maintain support to its priority sectors, including fisheries and agriculture.

"The Land Bank does not have to be 100-percent government-owned," Finance Secretary and former Land Bank president Margarita "Gary" Teves reminded said during a ceremony marking the bank's reminiscence of P930 million in dividends to the national government.

Selling part of the government's stake in the bank is one of the measures being studied to increase the bank's capitalization from the current P60 billion to as much as P80 billion, he said.

But Teves said turning investors in Land Bank would require an amendment of its charter, which currently limits the bank to the use of internal resources in beefing up its capitalization. Teves said the bank wants to increase capital to increase its financial assistance to farmers, fisher folk and micro-enterprises.

He said Land Bank has already prepared a draft bill seeking to amend the bank's charter. The bank is now in the process of lobbying for the draft bill's sponsorship in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"If we have the flexibility, Land Bank can be more inviting to investors," Teves said.

With the plan to sell shares of Land Bank, the government hopes to become the country's third biggest bank in terms of capital. Currently, Land Bank is on the fifth spot.

Teves said that Land Bank intends to keep its mandate of providing financial support to the fisheries, agriculture and micro-enterprise sectors. For this reason, Land Bank is wooing multi-lateral or bilateral agencies, whose loan packages are not commercial in nature, to invest in it.

Land Bank is eyeing the investment arms of either the World Bank, the Asian Development or the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Aside from tapping investments from the foreign agencies, Teves said, Land Bank is also considering either a merger with another government-owned bank like the Development Bank of the Philippines or boost its capital through loans to be issued by horizontal bonds in markets.

According to Bloomberg, the banks that offered the $500-million loan to San Miguel are ABN Amro Holding NV, barclays Plc, BNP Paribas SA, Calyon, Citigroup Inc., HSBC Holdings Plc, ING Group NV, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Standard Chartered Plc. The banks were picked to arrange the five-year loan.

The new financing will replace part of the $1.35 billion loan which San Miguel used for the all-$1.9-billion (P1.4-billion) takeover of National Foods.

The takeover of National Foods is SMC's largest investment that year. With the acquisition, SMC cornered its hold over the fast growing Asia Pacific food and beverage market.

SMC has gained 95 percent control of National Foods, effectively taking over the company.

In a bidding war that was launched late last year, SMC's All-$1.9-billion offer (US$1.3-billion) beat close rival New Zealand's Fonterra Cooperative Group.

SAUDI'S SCHOOL OF ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Taipan Lucio Tan (right) meets benefactors and faculty members of the Southeast Asian Interdisciplinary Institute (SAIDI) during the inauguration of a building that will house SAIDI's School of Organizational Development in Antipolo City. Tan sank in P1.5 million to complete the building, which SAIDI hoped to build—apart from its original mission—as a graduate school of development, a research development, a microfinance and low-cost technology

SMC seeks $500-M facility to refinance loan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp., the country's largest food and beverage firm is tapping a consortium of nine banks to arrange a $500-million facility to refinance a bridge loan which SMC had used in buying then-state-run giant National Foods Ltd., sources familiar said over the weekend.

San Miguel earlier obtained a $1.3 billion bridge loan to buy National Foods.

Sources said the balance of the amount may be sourced from the All-$1.9-billion (P1.4-billion) takeover of National Foods.

Peso hits 3-week low, but closes at 56.14 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO and local stocks yesterday suffered from a knee-jerk reaction to fresh accusations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had a direct hand in rigging last year's presidential election.

The peso slid 16.24 to $1, during the morning trade, below the 56.20-$1 level at which it had found support in the last three trading sessions. That was shortly after a new witness held a press conference exposing alleged election payoffs.

But the peso recovered in the afternoon and closed at 56.14-$1, down one centavo from Friday's close of 56.13.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed 17.21 points lower to 1,992.93, the first major correction seen in almost three weeks.

"The market was hungry for news, whether good or bad, as the gathering of some senators, whether credible or not, who used to a credible stance for Arroyo, to take profits," said AB Capital Securities analyst Joe Yuson.

Richard Angelo Dans, who claimed that he worked under former Commission on Elections official Jose Ida Tadlan, said he was promised election supervisors and regional directors some P50,000 each from former Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged "jueteng" lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda at Mr. Jueteng's La Vista home in Quezon City in January last year.

Jose Emmanuel Veloso, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, said the new witness initially brought fresh pressure to the market.

"It was, however, ignored afterwards," Veloso said. "I guess his (Dans') credibility has yet to be established."

Jonathan Batolos, chief strategist at Nomura dy Cee Universal Bank, said Dans's allegations initially prompted corporate buyers to load up dollars in the morning.

The recovery of the pesoin the afternoon trade indicated that it could test 56.06 in the near term barring further political developments.

Batolos said the peso should also benefit from the weakening of the US dollar, which was caused by the lower-than-expected economic growth in the world's largest economy.

In the stock market, Yuson said the market was becoming ready ripe for profit-taking but investors were holding off because of good earnings results.

RP traders continue to enjoy duty- free access to EU

By Rommel W. Jauregui

LOCAL exporters would continue to enjoy duty-free access to the European Union as the European Commission relaxed its requirements for use of electronic-based documents for shipments to the region.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Brussels, Belgium, reported that the EC decided to continue recognizing the old Certificate of Origin Form A still available at the Bureau of Customs in Manila.

Filipino exporters use the COO Form A to avail of duty-free privileges under the European Union's Generalized System of Preferences, which grants lower than-normal tariffs or completely duty-free access to products from about 180 developing countries and territories.

In general, a GSP is designed to allow industrialized countries to help developing countries to industrialize through grants of reduced tariffs which the latter need most either in return.

In particular, the EU GSP gives duty-free access to all non-sensitive products and a flat rate reduction of 3.5 percentage points on the duty rates of most other products.

Products that qualify for the tariff reductions under the EU GSP include edible products of animal origin, edible vegetables and nuts, oils and waxes, certain clothing and footwear, glass, and ceramic articles.

Aquino said that based on the latest data from the EU, imports from the Philippines reached a total value of $1.4 billion in 2003.

Globe, Smart turn to unlimited SMS

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNLIMITED texts still promise better come to a dead end...at least for the two major players, Inland Communication Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

The trend now, according to the two giants, is the offer of overnight, unlimited short messaging, or text, promos for prepaid customers.

The promos, they said, would keep subscribers hooked without straining the network and upsetting postpaid customers.

The National Telecommunications Commission believed that the mobile telcos also suffered from the illegal activities of bypass operators offering call-all-you-can promos.

"The telcos[] are afraid of the (so-)bypass operators[,]" said NTC director Edgardo Cabarios.

Smart has started offering its text-all-you-can promo, its 1-day rate goes for P50, while its for 4-day rate goes for P60. The promo started on July 17 and would end on Aug. 28, unless extended.

On July 28, Globe started rolling a similar deal. Globe's optimized, 24-hour text promo goes for P25.

All that Globe subscribers have to do is to text "textmap" to 2670. The second-rank player is coming with its cheaper call and text rate deal called Celchat.

Smart, meanwhile, scrapped its unlimited call promo because of the burden it had caused the network. Globe said it had long abandoned the so-all-you-can-joining because it was not sustainable for wanted to maintain good network quality.

"We don't believe in unsustainable unlimited offerings running for long periods," said Globe assistant vice president Froilan Castelo. "I think this new promo is unsustainable because it will not affect network quality."

What is more realistic, according to Castelo, is a cheaper tariff like Celchat's, which slashed call rates by 60 percent and text charges by half.

Cabarios said the giants resorted to increased bypass activity when they were offering unlimited calls.

Those illegal operations usually ride on the network of mobile carriers to facilitate illegal long distance operations by disguising international calls as local calls.

Mindanao copper-gold project on schedule

THE TAMPAKAN copper-gold project in Mindanao is firmly on schedule, according to Indophil Resources in its quarterly report to the Australian Stock Exchange.

Indophil chair Brian Phillips and managing director Tony Robbins said that the latest point of the project at this time—the pre-feasibility study—was conducted on time and on budget. The study will be completed in 2006.

The company has successfully raised the US$25 million to finance the critical phase of the Tampakan project.

"Tampakan is the most advanced mining-ble new major mining project in the Philippines," Phillips said. "It is an important minerals development project for the Philippines and its study program remains firmly on schedule and on budget. Indophil and its project partners continue to receive solid support from the government and the local community and this has been central to the study program remaining on track."

Indophil, in its quarterly report, confirmed its intention to employ the world's best practices in all its activities. Phillips said that the company and its partners are continually mindful of their shared obligations in community development and responsible environmental management.

After the study is completed, the project proponents will proceed with the feasibility study that it expects will cost another US$35 million. Once the second study confirms that the project is bankable, construction of the mine will proceed with a total capital investment of US$600 million.

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF PRUDENTIAL BANK

To All Stockholders of Prudential Bank:

By:
Bank of the Philippine Islands

(Original Signed)
Aurelio R. Montinola III
President

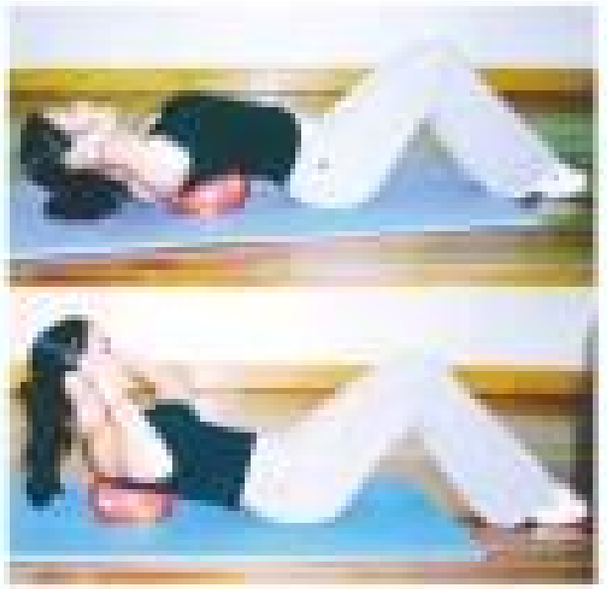
HEALTHFUL discoveries /C2

LIFESTYLE

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ■ TUESDAY FITNESS ■ WEDNESDAY 180 ■ THURSDAY FOOD ■ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Backward bend to ab crunch on mini ball



THIS exercise firms and strengthens the abdominal muscles. It also stretches the shoulders and improves the flexibility of the spine in a supported position.

Equipment

Exercise mat and small rubber ball

Exercise technique

1. Place the small ball behind your shoulder blades.

2. Legs should be hip distance apart with hands behind your head.

3. Carefully bend backwards until you reached a mild stretch in the abdominal muscles. This is your starting position.

4. Slowly curl torso forward while pulling your belly button towards the floor and rolling your pelvis up.

5. Relax in the starting position and do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips

1. Inhale as you arch backwards, exhale as you curl forward.

2. Avoid clasping your hands behind your head as you don't pull on your neck.

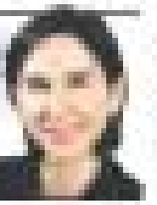
3. For more advanced exercisers: Place the ball behind your lower back. This will give you a greater range of motion in arching backward and rolling forward.

4. Be aware that you may experience a significant degree of muscle soreness the next day due to the eccentric contraction (lengthening under tension or resistance) of the abdominal muscles as you arch backward.

Repetitions

10 repetitions

Ideas from the 2005 World Fitness Convention



WELL AND GOOD

TINA ANAN

THE year's World Fitness Convention celebrated 20 years of the Idea Health and Fitness Association which provide quality continuing education to fitness professionals from 80 countries.

I have attended this annual gathering for the last 14 years and I always learn something new I will share in eight talks I listened over the last weight of weeks. So now, here are a few ideas.

Believe

Have the courage to start and believe that you can do it.

This year's Idea Fitness Inspiration Award went to Sarah Robertson, the first amputee to grace the cover of Runner's World magazine. Robertson is also the first woman with an artificial leg to compete in the Ironman triathlon, a grueling event that combines swimming, cycling and running.

Amazingly, Robertson only learned to ride a bike at the age of 20. She is proof that if you want something badly enough, you can do it.

Many people deprive themselves of a better quality of life because they don't think they have what it takes to get fit. Anyone can achieve a fitness level appropriate to his/her age and special physical condition but most things are needed in order to begin: the courage to start and the belief that he/she can do it.

Mind, mouth and muscles

Dr. Patrick Peake, author of "Fight Fat After Forty" said research scientist in the fields of nutrition, exercise and computer modeling, were it not enough to die (meaning eat sensibly) and exercise to lose weight. You also need to change your attitude. Think "can do," avoid the "all or nothing" trap, stop acting like a victim, and take responsibility for your lifestyle. Permanent weight loss is achieved when your mind, mouth and muscles work together.

The way you think determines what you feel.

Chronic stress keeps cortisol levels artificially high. Cortisol is a stress hormone that causes fat to be stored in the belly particularly deep within the abdominal cavity. This type of fat, called visceral or deep belly fat, is associated with heart disease and diabetes.

Research indicates that stress in middle-aged men and women is a significant factor in pot-belliesthat Peake calls "man-cups" for men and "mama pot" for women. So one of the secrets to a flatter stomach is to "don't worry be small belly!"

It's not about burning calorie digits. It's about using your digits to enjoy and celebrate life.

In fact research Peake found that many women are so busy up on exercising just to get a tantalizing body that they view exercise as punishment for eating too much or they believe exercise is a necessary evil to achieve the looks they want.

Being fit is not about having zero digits, ones or abs (although I must admit that is a good bonus), it's about using your body to do things that you enjoy. It's about waking up in the morning feeling energetic and empowered. The most committed exercisers I know work out mainly because it makes them feel good physically, mentally and emotionally.

Dr. Lee Berger of the University of New Hampshire says it best, "Muscle does not know age. It only knows use and disuse."

■■■■ /C2

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HOT guys who came back: bridesmaid DJ and PR, GP Reyes, with Pro and Marco of Rose Bolivar

MODERN beauty and media owner Angela Sison, and property owner ... GP Reyes' interviewer—Cecile Suarez

EXOTIC beauty Chris Yan with expat exotic pal Lori Po

RED-hot hot dads, Waldon Sims, and porky Marcelo Dizon

WORKING gals, Mid Seven's Kathy Bacosa and Mia Magpoc

SLEEK dresser Jenny Chan with good-looker Jon Mallaby

LUCKY guy Ric Diaz with two eye-catching Mid Tgals

FABULOUS Dargon, Michelle Bonaparte, Susan Ucanhenan and Juanita Dargan

Seven events for top sevens

THE BEAUTY and the prettiness. TV host Angel Aquino and billionaire Eddie Garcia

BEAUTIFUL boss, Nicole Anderson and Debbie walker-ex, Brad Turner

THE POPULAR Mid Seven that is synonymous with fun, fun, fun, launched its series of Mini Seven events in a one night only affair with a Mini Seven Lounge setup at the swinging Greenbelt 5, yesterday.

White drapes, white logo walls and tiki pumping music got us rolling in the huge space formerly occupied by Mid Cocktail Restaurant and taken over by Mid Seven Bar. Nice. Including birthday food specials brand Pretzels, kept the partying and cooking.

Inspiration came from Mid Seven dished out sexy music, along with Superfly members, duet Pj, Icon group. Mid Seven babes, went around offering the hip crowd Mid Seven cigarettes.

Bluedile's hottest party people had a blast, setting their feet down as they enjoyed their beers, pulutan, in a chic sign that the seven events in seven months will definitely be unforgettable babes.

"The Mini Seven party series takes off from last year's success. Its seven-party concept, only this time Mid Seven is the presenter. Each event will salute seven individuals who have made a mark in their respective fields in a special unveiling of a photographic exhibit by the one and only Raymund Saner," explained to me by young spoiler PR guy, GP Reyes, dahling.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Interview Article

Photos by Alex Mia Magno using Kodak CosyShare

Join the next Mini Seven bash, Aug. 5, at Mid Seven Bar, Greenbelt 5. Tell your friends to get their passports ready, because Mid Seven babes are taking you to Boracay on a free trip. Call GP Reyes at 0917-8034747 or 9536779.

Audio-visual

Wanting an Oakley to wear cool, palusyoso? And now Oakley has officially unveiled the awesome Thump! for optical shades, high-spending celebrities and the partying posh, at 1:00 p.m. this happening at the Loft in Rockwell.

The event got Oakley followers together to jam and celebrate the world's first digital music eyewear, palusyoso!

Top stage actor James Fabregas played the part of Oakley's "Head to toe," explaining what Thump! was all about. In between explorations of the Oakley Revolution, musical acts by Sun Valley Crew, Imago and DRT beat the soon-to-be-in feet, rocking in a totally wild experience.

Aside from the music influx, TV host Sunshine Cruz and fellow stars like actress Eddie Garcia, beautiful Angela de Leon, Restituto Fernandez, guest hosts Heather Grannis, Mike Pelayo, Tricia Dionaphino, Ian Veneracion, Angel Aquino and Christopher Deseo, were enjoying the many who could not pose up the chance to view and try on what could be the best, coolest invention of 2005.

The low profile suited to check out Oakley's state-of-the-art invention. But hosts of high-performance optics. It allows one to listen to music virtually anywhere without compromising sound or optical quality. "Oakley dares you to cut the cords and take the Thump to places where awkward music players get the way."

Oakley Thump! comes in seven color combinations and two playlists.

HOME run: Radiant Gutierrez with Oakley's marketing manager, John Angeles; Oakley's CEO Ramesh Dargon, and Oakley endorser Denise Quango

SUPER gals: Good looker Belinda Applebaum's PR prince, Rene Pastrol

Healthful discoveries

IN THIS rapidly changing world, one thing is constant: the desire to live longer and better.

Fortunately, people have more options now to make this wish a reality. Here are some of them:

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

No-guilt food

There is a haven of goodness in our neighborhood and it's called Goldilocks (tel. 6388058). Aside from convenient mid-day, it offers health-conscious clients a delicious array of chemical-free food. Some of the bestsellers from your GH shelves are the many eco-organic honey at herb chicken (from Isabela), whole-grain chicharrones pops, salads, organic lumpia, belly (organic beer, spinach and carrot noodles, chicken tocino, kalo-ho-to made with organic fruits, seaweed juices, and their house tea (ang ho!).

Bon Bon Pua, president and owner, said all the dishes were personally "designed" by her Dr. "happy" chefs are fed no grease or oil, supplemented with a vitamin mineral regimen. Having fun songs, the chefs have been fed the finest, commercially-grown chickens but are given an absolute no-hormones.

Dolcheck, at the Shangri-La Edsa Mall (parking lot area), serves only virgin coconut oil, no bona oil and olive oil and alkaline, mineral-purified water. It uses only bamboo salt, a very tasty and healthy seasoning.

People with various illnesses have to do this regularly to help the food will help heal them. Some customers patronize the place to lose weight.

A seven-day detoxification program complete with meals and supervision guarantees results. Strict medical supervision must be met before participants can participate in the program—blood tests, etc.

Also, Detox-day organic cooking lessons are offered. They include "food time" for a healthy lifestyle. Classes continue through August.

The deli sells healthy foods from producers like the Manna Modeling Products (virgin coconut oil, soaps, etc.), Sweetness (salad dressings and sauces), Sense (cosmetics) and many more.

But why organic food? Because it's good for you. Fresh, and organic and ingredient will lead to extreme illness.

Rianced YCO

At the Aegis council of YCO's crisis, trumps the country's entrepreneurs. Joey Villa and Bobby Habalaran (Cosmo Bah Inc.), sensitive to consumer needs, have designed a line of flavored YCOs—sweet corn, strawberry, coconut and vanilla.

The flavors, according to them, surpass the nutty aftertaste of unflavored YCO. But they give the assurance the flavoring doesn't remove the YCO's virgin quality.

Flavoring has made YCO extra acceptable to children. As a food supplement (suggested dose: four tablespoons daily), YCO is believed to have antibacterial, anti-fungal, anti-viral. Concluding anti-viral) benefits. It helps to flush the rids of heavy toxins, support the immune system, boost energy, control diabetes, prevent premature aging and increase a supple skin. You might want to consider making it a part of your daily regimen.

Regular readers of this column can avail of a special offer. The first 20 callers will receive a complimentary 300ml YCO bottle while the first 100 callers can get a 5-percent discount. They have to present this column when claiming the promotional discount. Please call 7524914 and look for Janice.

Freshest greens

City folks can now have even the freshest of greens—romaine, lollo rosa lettuce and others—right at the heart of Quezon City, the Quezon Memorial Circle to be exact.

The Quezon City Chamber of Commerce (QCCC), headed by its president, Carl Balita, has launched a campaign to make Quezon City the "urban agricultural" of the Philippines, in collaboration with the office of Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

Phelp-Quezon's support Bon Gaerlan is president of Member Hotels.

Phelp-quezon's says, in any time of the day, his condominium-style garden will have greens for customized buyers. Moreover, the QCCC is willing to help people considering to farm their own hydroponic garden. Interested are being held at the mentioned circle. The greens are grown without soil, chemicals or pesticides. Vegetables grown in a medium consisting of water alone. Call 7532779.

Postscript

There's no doubt about it. Health is wealth. Do invest your lifestyles and eat everything. "Do I want to live longer and better?" If the answer is yes, there's time to make a change.

Adieu. Take is good. And I mean it in stress."

The health regimen today: Make drinking of fresh fruit (no, not the sugary) or vegetable juices a daily habit.

Beauty mask

Mix a half cup of grated papaya and enough milk to cup of milk. Apply on a clean face (avoid the eye area). Add chilled cucumber slices to the eyes. Relax for five minutes. Rinse with cool water.

Love and light!

Centering prayer is like meditation

"It DOES by any other name will still be a rose" (In paraphrase, Shakespeare). I was reminded of this when I read an article in the Philippine Daily Inquirer about **centering prayer** advocated by a visiting American Trappist monk, Fr Thomas Keating, OSB, July 18).

Centering prayer, according to the article, "consists of choosing a sacred word, like God, lord, Jesus, Abba and Father and sitting comfortably, focusing the mind on the word, taking care to banish extraneous thoughts immediately."

In this way, according to Fr. Keating, "**A new world** approach unfolds and around us and the impossible becomes an everyday experience."

How different is that from the meditation process introduced to the West by Eastern masters? The two are essentially the same. But for Christians, it is made to sound **new in order to remove its association** with Eastern religions and New Age practices.

Not a rehash

"Some people may think centering prayer is a mere rehash of the New Age practices. This is not true," says the article. "It remains a sound Christian practice since it is ultimately based on Scripture."

But it's really the same old dog with a new collar, as far as I am concerned. (Changing a Hindu God's name to "Jesus Christ" or to "God" does not change its essence. It is still essentially a "mantra," but of a different label.

And there's absolutely nothing wrong with it. Mantra teachers will not object at all if one wishes to use "Jesus," or "Buddha," or "Krishna," or "Allah" when meditating. It will not change the essence of the meditative process. As Shakespeare said, **What** else by any **other name will** smell just as sweet."

Meditation aids the mind and brings it to a level of awareness not possible under our ordinary waking state. **In scientific terms**, meditation or contemplation slows down the brain waves from the usual beta frequency of around 14 to 21 cycles per second (cps) to around 7 to 14 cps. At this slower rate of **Alpha** (or even slower as Theta), the brain waves of the left and right hemisphere are synchronized. This synchronization brings a new level of awareness to the person undergoing it.

Pioneer

Harvard Medical School graduate Dr Herbert Benson, a cardiologist, was one of the pioneers in the scientific study of what happened during meditation and its physiological effects.

In his best-selling book, "The Relaxation Response" (published in 1975), **Dr. Benson** enumerated four essential factors evolving about the relaxation response or meditation state, namely: **1)** a quiet environment, a mental device, a passive attitude and a comfortable position."

A quiet environment is needed at the beginning of the practice of **meditation in order to remove distractions**. But later, I believe on experienced meditator can bring about the relaxation response even in a noisy environment. In my case, I would just adjust to a dynamic **form of meditation which they** undertook in a noisy environment.

A mental device is any sound or object a person focuses on so that his mind will not wander about. **With eyes closed**, he can concentrate on the word "one" or any other neutral word. If eyes are open, he can focus on a blank open area or white background or on the tip of his nose.

It did not really matter what mental device one used, according to Dr. Benson. It's just a tool to maintain mental focus.

Achieving a passive attitude was **the most important of the four factors** and the most difficult, Dr. Benson said. This means having a "letting go" feeling. Brochure advised a passive attitude if you remain calm and quiet when the telephone rings or when somebody calls you. If you jump to answer,

Comfort

The last important factor to bring about the meditative state is a comfortable position. Dr. Benson said it was not necessary to assume a difficult lotus position or yoga position to meditate properly. The important thing was that a person was comfortable.

For instance, one should sit quietly with two feet on the floor, hands on his lap or whatever seem comfortable, spine relatively straight but not stiff, and eyes closed. It is all right to meditate lying down if one can maintain wakefulness and not fall asleep.

The physiological effects of meditation were measured by Dr. Benson. He found meditation superior to sleep in controlling tension or stress. He compared the effects of sleep and meditation on rate of metabolism, oxygen consumption, alpha waves, blood lactate levels, blood pressure, mental responsiveness, other activities of the sympathetic nervous system, etc.

Meditation brought about of **from beneficial to health** that could not be achieved by drugs without harmful side effects.

The practice may be called centering, contemplation, relaxation response or meditation. But they are all the same.

Address letters to the column in Prime Plans 1, 106 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; call 4527240 or 8926808 for telephone or e-mail interviews. E-mail jtlicanco@pacific.net.ph; homepage: www.jtlicanco.thunder1.com. Listen to my AM radio program 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Sunday.

Ideas from the 2005 World Fitness . . .

From page C4

It is never too late to get fit. Pedia points out that most senior Olympians did not start to get fit till their 40's and 50's.

A few years ago, the champion of the Fitness Inspirational award was a 90-year-old **ex-athlete**. The audience thought that he had been fit all his life. **He** were all shocked to discover that he began his journey to fitness in his early 60's after suffering from a mild stroke. Prior to that he was your typical couch potato.

Another lesson is **that you can be a** 20-year-old with 50-year-old muscles if you don't exercise. Conversely, a 50-year-old can have the muscles of a 30-year-old.

Gradually eating sensible making better food choices most of the time. We all know what **that** means—whole foods **like vegetables, fruits**, whole grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, **lean** meats and low-fat dairy.

Make better 'bad' choices

Gradually eating almost making better choices means to limit refined carbohydrate foods, sugary food, and all other nutrient poor, **calorie dense foods**.

Another way of looking at it is to make **better "bad" choices.** If you have a craving for French fries, get a small order. Why buy your calories with them from fat than you need? Just learn to have that chocolate **bar? Choose the dark** variety, which has more anti-oxidants. Dark milk chocolate (white chocolate has none).

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